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Japan

Ministry Says Tokyo To Delay Rice Decision

OW1301120693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1146 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—The Uruguay Round of world trade talks has entered a delicate stage, allowing Japan to put off a politically sensitive decision on the opening of its rice market, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The Trade Negotiations Committee, the highest policy-making body of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, has postponed its meeting, originally scheduled for Friday, until Tuesday.

The official, who declined to be named, said discussion is now centered on technical problems and that efforts for a breakthrough will be continued into the next U.S. Administration, under President-elect Bill Clinton.

The official said Japan is not under pressure to make a decision on its rice market immediately pending negotiations on other delicate issues.

The Uruguay Round, which started in September 1986, has been deadlocked over farm trade.

Japan, which imposes a ban on rice imports, is reluctant to accept a proposal to replace barriers to farm trade with tariffs citing reasons of national security.

The situation is moving and Japan should maintain a close watch on developments over the next few days, the official said.

Armacost Advises Miyazawa on Clinton Meeting

OW1301082393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0814 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost has urged Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa not to visit the United States to meet its new leader with "an empty briefcase," a senior Foreign Ministry source said Wednesday.

Armacost told a senior ministry official recently it would not be adequate for Miyazawa to visit Washington after the inauguration of President-elect Bill Clinton merely to strike up a rapport with the new American leader, the source said.

Armacost reportedly outlined three areas in which Miyazawa should bring positive messages.

First, the envoy was quoted as saying, Miyazawa should reveal concrete measures aimed at expanding domestic demand in Japan to reduce its ballooning external trade surplus.

Armacost called specifically for Japan to lower its income tax to encourage consumers to increase consumption.

Secondly, Miyazawa was urged to signal Japan's resolve to take the initiative to bring the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks to a successful conclusion, namely by replacing its outright ban on rice imports with tariffs.

Armacost reportedly said it would not do for Japan to continue standing on the sidelines just watching and waiting while the U.S. and the European Community thrash out their differences in the trade talks.

Finally, Armacost advised, Miyazawa should come up with a more specific proposal on Japan's ideas to create a new mechanism for economic and trade dialogue to succeed the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII), the source said.

Tokyo, U.S. Fail To Agree in Aviation Talks

OW1301145793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1432 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan and the United States failed to reached agreement in two-day aviation talks on a United Airlines Inc. (UAL) request to introduce a new flight service to Sydney via Tokyo, Foreign Ministry sources said Wednesday.

UAL has already requested permission to start a new flight from New York to Sydney via Tokyo from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. believes the proposed flight is just an extension of UAL's current New York-Tokyo lines.

But the Japanese Government has said it would constitute a new flight service and needs permission from Japan's Transport Ministry, the officials said.

In the talks, which started Tuesday, the U.S. agreed that the proposed flight is in effect a new flight service.

However, U.S. officials maintained that mere notification to the Japanese Government of UAL's intention to use the airport in Tokyo is sufficient for starting the service between New York and Sydney, they said.

MITI Official on Bentsen Microchip Remarks

OW1301104693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1025 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—A top trade official voiced displeasure Wednesday at criticism of Japan by U.S. Treasury Secretary-designate Lloyd Bentsen who said Tokyo is not doing enough to buy foreign-made semiconductors.

The International Trade and Industry Ministry (MITI) official said on condition of anonymity, "We absolutely cannot accept such criticism because both the Japanese Government and the people are making extraordinary efforts."

Bentsen, testifying Tuesday before the Senate Finance Committee, criticized Japan for failing to fully implement an accord with the United States on microchips.

The MITI official pointed out that the chip accord requires efforts by both Japan and the United States to improve the market share of foreign-made semiconductors in this country.

"I wonder at U.S. attitude while it negates its attitude," the MITI official said. [sentence as received]

Timing of U.S.'s Somalia Pull-Out Viewed

OW1301131393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1301 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Paris, Jan. 13 KYODO—U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said Wednesday U.S. forces may begin withdrawing from Somalia in early February, Japanese sources said.

In a 40-minute meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, Eagleburger said the U.S. mission in Somalia is going so smoothly that forces may begin pulling out from the east African nation February 1 or later in tne month, the sources said.

Prior to the meeting, Eagleburger indicated to reporters that U.S. President George Bush may take some action against Iraq for its repeated incursions into Kuwait since Sunday to remove installations from a former naval base.

Eagleburger told Watanabe he highly appreciates Japan's disbursement of 100 million yen for the UN Fund to aid Somalia, the sources said.

A coalition of military forces from the United States and other countries has been in Somalia since December 9 to provide UN-supervised humanitarian assistance to Somalis suffering from a prolonged famine and civil war.

Turning to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, Watanabe, who is on an eight-day trip to France, Belgium and Spain, told Eagleburger he hopes the talks would be successful.

Eagleburger said the U.S. would do its best to that effect but added if the talks do not end successfully before the January 20 inauguration of President-elect Bill Clinton, the new administration may take some time to settle its position on the matter.

He also noted the importance of cooperation between Japan, the U.S. and Europe in political, economic and military fields.

Ministry Official on Target of Cambodia Attack

OW1301110393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1052 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—A top Foreign Ministry official Wednesday was unable to confirm speculation that Japan may have been the intended target of an attack Tuesday night on a UN barracks in Cambodia.

The official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, was referring to an attack with rockets and automatic weapons on a UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) barracks in Siem Reap Province.

Two Cambodian UN employees died and two UNTAC civilian police officers, one from Ghana and the other from India, were wounded.

Five Japanese police officers normally stationed at the barracks, known as "Japan House," were reportedly on vacation outside Cambodia at the time.

The official said Japan is in close touch with UNTAC about the incident. He had no immediate word on any plans to restation the Japanese officers.

The Japanese Government is particularly sensitive to the prospect of Japanese casualties in Cambodia, since its decision to send a Japanese contingent there was achieved only after a hard-fought domestic political battle. Public support remains fragile.

Legislation allowing the dispatch of the country's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) overseas was passed only after guarantees that Japanese soldiers would not have any combat role and that efforts would be made to keep Japanese personnel out of dangerous situations.

The Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction, which has refused to disarm in compliance with 1991 Paris peace accords, is believed to be behind the attack, according to Japanese sources in Cambodia.

Also Wednesday, another senior Foreign Ministry official commented that the 75 Japanese civilian police sent to Cambodia are especially exposed to danger since they are generally only grouped in pairs, while the SDF are organized into larger units.

Sending of Senior Official to Burma Considered

OW1301105893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1034 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan is considering dispatching a senior government official to Myanmar [Burma] in the near future because of concern about Yangon's [Rangoon's] commitment to restoring democracy, a Foreign Ministry source said Wednesday.

The source said there appears little prospect that Japan will bring about a visit to Tokyo soon by a member of Myanmar's military government, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

The source expressed disillusionment with SLORC's abrupt adjournment of a national convention to discuss a new constitution and said the timetable for the democratic process outlined by the government remains unclear.

SLORC officials told the convention, from which many prominent politicians were excluded, that the right of the armed forces to participate in political leadership must be enshrined in a new constitution.

The source was also disenchanted with recent remarks by SLORC representatives that detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi would not be freed until the situation in the country is deemed sufficiently stabilized.

He indicated that Japan is concerned about its future political leverage on Myanmar, considering recent remarks by SLORC representatives that the country can do without foreign aid.

Tokyo, Moscow Plan To Hold Trade Conference

OW1301113093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan and Russia will hold a two-day conference in Tokyo next week to discuss ways of expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

Japanese officials said the conference scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday will be the first governmental meeting between the two countries since October 1990.

The ministry officials said Japan hopes to use the occasion to restructure bilateral relations which have been stagnant since Russian President Boris Yeltsin abruptly postponed a scheduled visit to Japan last September.

Topics to be discussed at the meeting will include Russia's trade debt to Japan and loans to Russia through the Export-Import Bank of Japan, the officials said.

Breakthrough in Bosnia Peace Talks Welcomed

OW1301101493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0931 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan welcomes an agreement reached among warring parties in the former Yugoslavia on a peace plan for the republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, a top Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

But the official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, indicated it is premature to expect a comprehensive peace, saying many details remain unclear as to whether the factions will follow through on the agreement.

The accord on a 10-point constitutional plan, which has been proposed by international mediators, was accepted by all three factions in Bosnia-Hercegovina in talks Tuesday in Geneva.

The official said it remains to be seen how the plan is dealt with by the Bosnian Serbs, whose assembly deputies must approve it within seven days.

The proposed constitution would create a sovereign Bosnia- Hercegovina with 10 autonomous provinces.

Kato Urges Miyazawa Attend Seoul Inauguration

OW1301095993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0904 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—A leading pro-Seoul lawmaker in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Wednesday called for adjustments in next month's Diet schedule to permit Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to attend the inauguration ceremony for South Korean President-elect Kim Yong-sam.

With the expectation that opposition leaders would attend the ceremony, Mutsuki Kato, former Chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, met with Tsutomu Kawara, head of the Diet Affairs Committee, at party headquarters to urge changes in the Diet schedule and budget committee sessions.

Miyazawa said last week the busy parliamentary schedule would likely prevent him from attending the February 25 ceremony in which South Korea's first truly civilian president in three decades will be sworn in.

Kato, secretary general of the Japan-South Korea Parliamentarians League, will visit South Korea on January 20-21 and meet with Kim and South Korean President No Tae-u.

Kato later told reporters Koshiro Ishida, head of the opposition Komeito, and Sadao Yamahana, the next chairman of Japan's largest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party, have indicated wishes to visit South Korea for the inauguration.

"It would be a terrible thing if the prime minister could not be in attendance," said Kato.

Miyazawa explained to Kato last Friday that he would not be able to attend the ceremony and government sources indicated the prime minister has not considered any special emissary to attend on his behalf.

Mori on Efforts To Boost Domestic Demand

OW1301141793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1359 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] London, Jan. 13 KYODO—Yoshio Mori, Japan's trade minister, told Prime Minister John Major on Wednesday that Japan will seek to boost domestic demand to achieve its real economic growth target of 3.3 percent in fiscal 1993, which starts in April, Japanese officials said.

The officials quoted Major as saying Britian appreciates Japan's resolve to sustain its economic growth and expressing his intention to visit Tokyo before the summit of seven industrialized nations to be held there July 7-9.

The itinerary of his Japan trip has yet to be worked out, however, they said. The officials are accompanying Mori on his current trip to Europe.

Major also told Mori, Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry, that Britain welcomes more investment from Japanese businesses.

Britain will continue to treat Japanese and other corporations operating in this country equally and act in their interests in the European Community, he reportedly said.

Cooperation With UK on Global Warming Agreed

OW1301020193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0152 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] London, Jan. 12 KYODO—Japan and Britain agreed Tuesday [12 January] on bilateral cooperation for the development of technology to stem global warming, Japanese officials said.

Japan's International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori and Britain's Secretary of State for the Environment Michael Howard agreed in a meeting to advance the cooperative development of innovative technologies that could halt the so-called greenhouse effect, for example through reducing excessive emissions of carbon dioxide, the principal cause of the phenomenon, the officials said.

Mori To Propose Surplus-Cutting Package

OW1301005393 Tokyo KYODO in English 2309 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori will propose a package of measures to curb Japan's growing trade surplus with the European Community, Japanese newspapers said Wednesday.

Mori will make 17 proposals to boost EC exports to Japan and strengthen bilateral cooperation in business and technology fields at a Japan-EC ministerial meeting slated for Friday in Brussels, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN, and the NIHON KOGYO SHIMBUN reported.

Among the proposals are the establishment of a meeting of government experts to expand the EC's participation in the businesses financed by Japan's economic assistance to developing countries, regular dialogue for cooperation in industry and technology, and various steps to boost EC exports to and investments in Japan, the dailies said.

The measures are designed to put a lid on Japan's trade surplus with the 12-country trade bloc, which hit a record 27.4 billion dollars in 1991, and probably surpassed 30 billion dollars in 1992.

Law on International Checks of Chemical Plants

OW1301123293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1210 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—With its decision to sign a historic treaty to control chemical weapons, Japan will institute a new law that will allow international inspections of chemical factories, government sources said Wednesday.

The proposed law will also require chemical firms, including makers of agricultural chemicals and semiconductors, to submit regular reports to the government on chemicals in stock, the sources said.

Japan is to accede to the international convention banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons at the treaty's signing ceremony in Paris on Wednesday.

The sources said the government has launched studies on measures for Japan to cooperate in international inspections of chemical factories, including contribution of funds and personnel.

Japanese enterprises, however, have expressed concern over the possible leak of industrial property, including technologies and other secret data, resulting from the opening of their factories to international inspections.

The sources said the proposed law, to be enacted in time for the ratification of the treaty in 1995, also incorporates provisions designed to control chemical trade and exports of chemicals to nations involved in conflicts.

They said there are about 1,000 factories in Japan that are subject to international inspections.

$100 Billion Aid to Developing Nations Studied

OW1301005493 Tokyo KYODO in English 2357 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan is considering offering 100 billion dollars in aid to developing nations in a special fund over five years from fiscal 1993, starting April 1, the NIKKAN KOGYO SHIMBUN reported Wednesday.

The sum represents a 50 percent increase from the preceding five-year fund recycling program ending in the current fiscal year, the industrial newspaper said.

Details have still to be worked out, but the government is expected to disclose the plan at the annual economic summit of seven major industrialized nations to be held in Tokyo from July 7 to 9, it said.

The sizable increase in the fund aid is being considered in view of Japan's growing trade surplus, which is estimated to reach a record 135 billion dollars in fiscal 1993, the newspaper said.

The government has earmarked 1,014 billion yen for official development assistance (ODA) in the fiscal 1993 draft budget, and part of that will be used for the fund, it said.

At the same time, the government is planning to submit a bill to the next ordinary Diet session starting in mid-January for revision of government-sponsored trade insurance in an attempt to boost the recycling of private-sector funds to developing nations, it said.

ODA Budget Use Urged for Foreign Students

OW1301055493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0541 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Sapporo, Jan. 13 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party's next leader Sadao Yamahana proposed Wednesday the government use part of its Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget to improve conditions of foreign students in Japan.

In a press conference here, Yamahana issued a statement urging humanitarian aid for students from Asian countries and foreign workers in Japan.

In the statement, Yamahana called on Education Minister Mayumi Moriyama to have talks over the proposal.

Of the 45,066 foreign students in Japan as of May 1, 1991, 41,346 were from other Asian countries, Education Ministry statistics show.

Yamahana also said that his party will study steps to help illegal foreign workers who become ill but are not covered by medical insurance.

Japan's fiscal 1993 budget includes 1,014.4 billion yen for ODA purposes, up 6.5 percent over fiscal 1992.

Yamahana, 56, will succeed Makoto Tanabe as chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the country's No. 1 opposition party.

LDP To Propose Review of State Constitution

OW1301033293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0303 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—The governing Liberal Democratic Party decided Wednesday to propose during an upcoming Diet session the creation of a nonpartisan panel to review Japan's postwar Constitution, party sources said.

The sources said Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the party's Policy Affairs Research Council, will unveil the proposal during a question-and-answer session at the outset of the regular Diet session, which opens on January 22.

The LDP proposal calls for establishing the panel, which would be made up of members of the LDP and opposition parties. The sources said Mitsuzuka will float the proposal on January 25 to encourage debate on Japan's international contributions.

But Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's top spokesman, said Miyazawa has no plans to seek a change in Article 9 of the Constitution.

The article stipulates Japan's pledge to "renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes."

Despite Miyazawa's skepticism about a review of the Constitution, the sources said, LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama and other senior LDP officials approved the proposal during a high-level meeting Wednesday morning.

Miyazawa is currently on a trip to Southeast Asia.

Watchdog Body on Handling of Kanemaru Case

OW1301055593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0543 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—A judicial watchdog body said Wednesday that prosecutors were wrong not to indict fallen political kingpin Shin Kanemaru and some 60 other politicians in connection with his payment to them of 500 million yen that he received from the trucking firm Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co.

The body, officially called the Tokyo Committee for the Inquest of Prosecution, said the decision not to prosecute was "unjust."

Decisions by the watchdog body are not binding. But, prosecutors usually will resume investigations after such a decision was issued.

Late last month, the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office announced that it would not indict Kanemaru and some 60 politicians to whom he allegedly distributed the money. Kanemaru was earlier fined 200,000 yen in a summary prosecution for accepting the money.

'High Possibility' of Violation

OW1301092493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0819 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—A judicial watchdog body declared Wednesday that the prosecution's decision not to indict fallen political kingpin Shin Kanemaru and some 60 politicians in connection with a major money scandal was unfair.

The No. 1 Tokyo Committee for the Inquest of the Prosecution, the watchdog body, issued the decision in response to a petition from a group of lawyers who had asked the committee to look into the prosecution's decision not to indict Kanemaru and other politicians.

The committee said there is a high possibility that Kanemaru violated the Political Funds Control Law in distributing the 500 million yen from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. to the politicians.

Kanemaru, 78, the former vice president of the governing Liberal Democratic Party, was summarily indicted on violation of the Political Funds Control Law last September for receipt of 500 million yen in illicit donations from the delivery firm.

Prosecutors, however, did not file charges against Kanemaru and the other politicians over the distribution of the money.

While decisions by the committee are not binding, prosecutors usually resume investigations after such a decision is issued, judiciary sources said. The watchdog body is made up of private citizens.

The Statute of Limitations for the case against Kanemaru and the other politicians runs out this month, so there is little chance the prosecution's decision will be reversed, judicial sources said.

Kanemaru, who admitted receiving the illicit donations, paid a 200,000 yen fine in September without standing trial. He resigned from the Diet the following month.

Prosecutors announced late last December they would not issue indictments against Kanemaru and the politicians, saying there is no limitation on the amount of donations allowed as long as the money is distributed by a politician's fund-raising organization.

Kanemaru's former secretary, Masahisa Haibara, reportedly told prosecutors that he channeled the money to Kanemaru's political support organization.

Dissatisfied with the prosecution's decision, the group of lawyers filed a complaint with the watchdog body.

The committee said there is a high possibility Kanemaru directly distributed the 500 million yen among the 60 politicians.

National Economic Slump Reportedly Continuing

OW1301011493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0038 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan's economy remains sluggish while in the process of adjustment, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said in a report to the cabinet Wednesday.

An EPA official said the agency's assessment of the nation's economic situation as a whole remained unchanged.

The report is compiled monthly by the EPA using the latest available statistics on the nations' economic conditions.

Lackluster demand has stumped growth in private consumption, but housing starts are beginning to recuperate, the report said.

Private capital investment is on the decline, particularly in the manufacturing sector, but contracts for public works projects are steadily proceeding, it said.

Industrial output has been sluggish as inventory adjustments have lapsed into a lull or retreated somewhat with producers' inventories, such as plastic and textiles, piling up again, the official said.

Weakening shipments amid declining demand were responsible for the rebound in inventories, he said.

Reflecting dull production and deteriorating corporate profits, the ratio of effective job offers to job seekers fell in November to 0.93 from 0.96 in October, the EPA said.

Bankruptcies are on the increase, and at higher levels than the past few years, it said.

Exports are losing momentum, while imports are generally weak, causing Japan's current account surplus to top the previous year's levels.

Wholesale prices have softened while consumer prices remain stable.

The report said the government approved on December 26 a budget proposal for fiscal 1993 starting next April 1, which gave careful consideration to efforts to prop up the economy despite tight fiscal conditions.

Economy Reportedly Close to 'Bottoming Out'

OW1301050593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0439 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan's chief government spokesman expressed the belief Wednesday that the Japanese economy is close to bottoming out, although it remains in a severe slump.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono told reporters that the economy appears to be moving sideways, at a low level.

Kono made the remark regarding an official report submitted by the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) to the cabinet Wednesday morning.

The report said the economy "remains sluggish while in the process of adjustment," unlike previous reports mentioning widespread perceptions that it was continuing to slow down.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Policy Affairs Research Council, told a meeting of cabinet ministers that the government should implement additional economic stimulation measures, since the nation's economic situation is likely to remain basically unchanged in the current first quarter of 1993.

Government officials said Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi replied that a priority task for the government is to obtain Diet approval of the fiscal 1993 budget before fiscal 1992 ends on March 31.

Meanwhile, Mitsuzuka was named as chief of the governing party's special group to promote Japan's economic recovery.

Party officials said the group is expected to hold its first meeting on January 21, the day before the Diet convenes for an ordinary session.

They said the group will be joined by about 10 economic experts from private think tanks.

EPA Conducts Survey on Business Prospects

OW1301115693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Business prospects are bleak for almost all industries and demand will probably remain weak during the first half of 1993, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Wednesday.

The EPA said a survey of 12 industries showed sales of consumer electronics and automobiles continued being stagnant while output was broadly sluggish.

Inventories are still at high levels, with stocks of textile piling up again despite a downward trend in those of steel and paper and pulp, the survey said.

In the manufacturing sector, the automobile industry predicted a continuing decline in domestic sales during the first six months of this year. The industry expects a recovery after the fall.

Automakers expect their domestic sales this year to increase by 2 to 3 percent over 1992 levels.

Only the steel industry forecast a recovery in production early this year, expecting that of crude steel in the January to March period to bounce back to the same level as last year, the survey said.

The pessimistic outlook also dominated the nonmanufacturing sector, with the leasing industry predicting a smaller amount of contracts this year while expecting a recovery later in 1993, it said.

Official Says Discount Rate Cut 'Unlikely'

OW1301112393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1038 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—A senior Finance Ministry official said Wednesday he does not think the Bank of Japan is considering lowering the official discount rate despite mounting calls for a cut from the business sector.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it is unlikely that a rate reduction would immediately stimulate the appetite for funds from private companies for capital investment. "It's not that simple," he said.

The official went on to say that a cut might contribute to restraining consumption, as it would reduce consumers' interest income. He said individuals currently have about 800 trillion yen in financial assets.

Hence it is becoming increasingly difficult to make a decision about cutting interest rates, he said.

Turning to the nation's overall economy, the official said the ministry's view on current conditions remains unchanged. The Economic Planning Agency, in its monthly economic report submitted to the cabinet Wednesday morning, said Japan is wading through a slump, slightly changing recent wording to a more clearer tone.

The official said both corporate and individual stock adjustments are continuously taking place.

He said it is necessary to see the effects of the supplementary budget for the current fiscal year, which is the core of the August 10.7 trillion yen pump-priming package, and to have the Diet pass the fiscal 1993 budget as soon as possible before discussing suggested extra boosts to the economy.

He also ruled out the possibility of using public funds to rebuild financially troubled housing loan companies.

Tsuneo Wakai, chairman of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, said Tuesday it may be necessary to use tax money to rescue housing loan companies.

Housing loan companies have been hit hard by the bursting of the speculative bubble and deflation of asset values.

Survey: Firms See Delay to Economic Recovery

OW1301092593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0705 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Many Japanese companies expect that Japan's economic recovery will be delayed until sometime in the summer or autumn this year, according to an official survey published Wednesday.

The industry-by-industry survey on business and employment trends was conducted last month by the Labor Ministry.

The previous ministry survey, carried out last August and December, showed that Japanese companies expected national economic recovery to start sometime this spring or summer.

The officials expressed concern that Japan's employment situation will worsen due to a delay in economic recovery.

The survey also showed that the national labor shortage has eased recently, with the construction industry reporting "some shortage," rather than the serious shortage it had reported in the previous survey.

The general machinery industry reported some surplus in its work force, compared with the "optimum level" it had previously reported.

The survey also indicated that the rubber manufacturing, department store, trucking, and general machinery industries are resorting to operational cutbacks, job transfers, restrictions on overtime, and curbs on recruitment to deal with their excess of labor.

These industries had previously reported they were taking few measures to deal with a surplus of labor.

This time, only the construction industry reported few such measures are being taken.

Mongolia

Ochirbat Praises Signing of START II

LD0501203193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1330 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 5 January (ITAR-TASS)—The reaching of an accord between the Russian Federation and the United States on a two-thirds reduction of strategic arms in the next 10 years testifies to the end of the "cold war" in relations between states, the displaying of political will in the name of universal interests, and the further deepening of the trend toward honest cooperation and mutual trust. This is how Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat appraised the START II treaty signed in Moscow between Russia and the United States.

In an interview to MONTSAME, the Mongolian leader today stressed that this act was a major step toward implementation of the goals and principles of strengthening strategic stability and nonproliferation of lethal weapons, and toward implementation of total nuclear disarmament.

Orchibat To Meet Yeltsin in Moscow 19 Jan

OW1201133993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1223 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, Jan. 12 KYODO—Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat will visit Moscow from January 18 for talks with Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin, government officials said Tuesday.

Ochirbat is expected to sign a good neighbor and friendship treaty with Russia that will determine the basic bilateral relationship after the demise of the former Soviet Union, the officials said.

North Korea

O Chin-u Attends Reception Hosted by Iranian Delegation

SK1301060393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—General Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps [IRGC] of Iran Mohsen Reza'i, who is leading a high-level delegation of IRGC, gave a reception Tuesday evening upon the conclusion of the delegation's Korean visit.

Invited there were minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u, vice marshal of the Korean People's Army Kim Kwang-chin and other generals and officers.

Speaking at the reception, Mohsen Reza'i said "I express deep thanks to his excellency Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people, for having received the delegation today."

He noted that there were excellent relations between the leaders, the governments and the peoples of Iran and Korea.

The respected leader his excellency Kim Il-song who, with a strong will, has waged a struggle against imperialism is a great man and the Korean people, too, are a great people, he said, expressing the belief that the relations between the two countries would continue to develop favourably in the future.

O Chin-u also made a speech.

Kim Tal-hyon Meets Delegation

SK1301111493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—Vice-premier Kim Tal-hyon today met and had a friendly conversation with His Excellency General Commander Mohsen Reza'i, head of the high-level delegation of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps of Iran, and some members of the delegation at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Present there were vice-chairman of the state external economic affairs commission Kang Chong-mo, major general of the Korean People's Army Yi Su-hyon and Iranian Ambassador to Korea Hasan Taherian.

Consular Agreement Concluded With Yemen 9 Jan

SK1201134893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] A consular agreement between the DPRK Government and the Government of the Republic of Yemen was concluded in Sana on 9 January. Our country's ambassador to Yemen and the general director of consuls of the Yemeni Foreign Ministry signed the agreement.

Trade Delegation Returns From China 9 Jan

SK1201001493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Our country's government trade delegation led by Kang Chong-mo, vice chairman of the External Economic Committee, returned home by plane on 9 January after visiting China.

International Liaison Committee Issues Statement

SK1201115693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—The International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea made public a statement on January 4 as regards the principle of Korea's reunification reiterated by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

The statement quoted President Kim Il-song as saying in his New Year address, "The principle of national independence is the fundamental principle of Korea's reunification from which we cannot stand back, and talking about negotiations and reunification while denying this principle is trifling with the nation and this should not be permitted."

The statement noted: We fully agree with the president who said the principle of national independence is the fundamental principle in the solution of the Korea's reunification.

Our committee, it stated, reaffirms that it will put pressure on the South Korean authorities to check the resumption of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and to honestly implement the North-South agreement from the independent position and actively struggle in support of the Korean people's efforts for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Ali Hasan, general secretary of the Supreme Council of the Nationalist Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon, in a statement issued to the press on January 3, expressed the belief that Korea would surely be reunified by the efforts of the Korean nation itself through a confederacy, fully supporting the policy of national reunification clarified by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

He strongly demanded that the United States and the South Korean authorities look straight at the reality today, discontinue such large-scale aggressive war maneuvers as the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and immediately renounce the outdated anachronistic policy of throwing a wet blanket over the Korean people's efforts for the reunification of the country.

Japanese Solidarity Group Views Reunification

SK1201105393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—The Japan council of participants in international solidarity march for supporting Korea's reunification issued a statement denouncing the decision of the United States and South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres.

It branded this decision as a dangerous act of military provocation against the entire Korean people who desire peace and the reunification of the country, an act for destroying the climate of reconciliation and dialogue and aggravating confrontation and tension on the Korean peninsula and an open violation of and perfidy to the North-South agreement and joint declaration on denuclearisation.

We strongly demand that the United States and the South Korean authorities immediately withdraw their decision to resume the criminal military rehearsal and the United States withdraw all its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

Meanwhile, the Swiss committee for supporting Korea's reunification in an appeal made public on December 30 said that there is no ground for the United States and South Korean authorities to stage the joint military exercise aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula, in Asia and, furthermore, in the world since the North and South adopted the joint declaration on denuclearisation to remove the danger of a nuclear war. It called upon democratic organisations and figures to wage a powerful solidarity movement to get the plan of the military exercises cancelled and the U.S. Forces withdrawn from South Korea.

On the same day the committee sent letters of protest to the U.S. and South Korean Embassies in Switzerland demanding the immediate withdrawal of the decision to resume the military exercises adopted by the United States and South Korean authorities.

Kim Il-song Receives Foreign Party Greetings

SK1201044693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received messages of greetings from foreign party leaders on the occasion of the New Year 1993.

Messages came from Genaro Ledesma Izquieta, chairman of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students and chairman of the United Left of Peru; Oscar Ugarte, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Mariateguista Revolutionary Party of Peru; Guzman Rivera Castanera, general secretary of the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Peru; Rene Mauge Mosquera, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ecuador; Boris Petkov, chairman of the executive council of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party (Marxists); Abdel Hamid Mehri, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front; and Emil Kibala Beya Nsien, national chairman of the Workers' Party of Zaire.

In the messages they extended warmest congratulations to President Kim Il-song on the new year and wished the Korean people success in the socialist construction and in the struggle for the national reunification.

They wholeheartedly wished President Kim Il-song good health and long life.

Kim Chong-il Receives Foreign Party Messages

SK1201103393 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1013 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings on the occasion of the new year 1993 from A.F.M. Mahbubal Huq, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh; Emil Kibala Beya Nsien, national chairman of the Workers' Party of Zaire; Hasanul Huq Inu, general secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the Bangladesh National Socialist Party; Renan Raffo Munoz, general secretary, and Guillermo Herrera Montecios, international secretary, of the Central Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party; and Preben Moller Hansen, chairman of the Danish Workers' Party, Common Cause.

They extended warm congratulations to Comrade Kim Chong-il on the New Year and wished him good health and long life.

Rallies Held in Response to New Year Speech

SK1201051793 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0431 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—Mass rallies were held in Kaesong municipality, Kusong, Sunchon and Munchon cities and Cheryong county to vow to greet the 40th anniversary of the victory in the great fatherland liberation war with a high degree of political enthusiasm and brilliant achievements in production and construction in hearty response to the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The reporters and speakers at the rallies said President Kim Il-song's New Year address is a militant banner in smashing the manoeuvres of the imperialists and accomplishing the socialist cause of chuche with the might of singlehearted unity and a great program of revolution to accelerate the reunification of the country and vigorously promote the cause of anti-imperialism and independence.

Apart from socialism today's happiness of our people and their hope for tomorrow are impossible, they noted, and stressed: We will firmly defend the anthropocentric socialist system of our own style by staunchly fighting under the slogan "The party, the people and the Army must all be united in one mind and complete the cause of socialism to the last!"

They vowed to overfulfil their monthly and quarterly assignments to produce more coal, minerals, electricity, foodstuffs and daily necessities and build a large number of dwelling houses this year, a significant year in which falls the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

They said they would put farming on a scientific and technological basis as demanded by the chuche method of farming and thus bring about a bumper harvest of grain, meat, vegetables, fruits and cocoons this significant year.

Resolutions were adopted at the rallies.

Meetings Marking 40th War Anniversary Held

SK0901054893 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0446 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—Employees of the Anju district coal mining complex, the Munchon coal mine, the East Pyongyang thermal power plant, the Chollima steel complex, the general bureau of western railways and the Pyongyang textile combine held meetings to vow to greet the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Great Fatherland Liberation War with a high degree of political enthusiasm and brilliant achievements in their work in hearty response to the New Year address of the respected leader President Kim Il-song.

The reporters and speakers at the meetings said that the working people were overflowing with revolutionary enthusiasm to demonstrate the validity and invincibility of the cause of socialism by bringing another revolutionary upsurge in all domains of the national economy this year in which falls the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

They declared that they would overfulfil their daily, monthly and quarterly plans on all indices without fail by introducing new technical innovation proposals into production and waging a powerful campaign for increased production and economy to successfully carry out the tasks put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address. By so doing, we will greet this year marking the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War with high records in production in coal, power, metal and light industrial domains and increased transport in railways, they stated.

Resolutions were adopted at the meetings.

WPK Sends Greetings to Swedish Communists

SK0901055393 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0448 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] sent a message of greetings to Frank Vaude upon his reelection as chairman of the Communist Party KPML (r) [Communist Party of Marxist-Leninist Revolutionaries] of Sweden.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties will further expand and

develop in accordance with the idea of socialism, the message wished the chairman success in his responsible work to strengthen the party and implement the decision of the party congress.

Italian Official Arrives in Pyongyang 9 Jan

SK0901112893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—Giancarlo Elia Valori, secretary general of the Italian Institute of International Relations, arrived here today by air.

'Rapid Progress' in Light Industry Highlighted

SK1101235293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1518 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA)—The light industry is making a rapid progress in Korea.

The nation's light industry with a multi-faceted structure and a solid foundation of raw materials is now satisfactorily meeting by itself the demand of the working people for all consumer goods from clothing to articles for cultural use.

The great leader President Kim Il-song said:

"In our country, which had been undeveloped for many centuries, the entire people now wear home-made clothes and use daily necessities made with their own hands. This is indeed a great achievement and we are proud of it."

President Kim Il-song long ago put forward a unique policy of developing large-scale central industry and minor local industry in parallel for the progress of light industry and has wisely led the struggle for its realization.

As a result, an independent and modern light industry has been built in a short period.

The textile industry which had been confined to cotton textiles annually increases the output of textiles including woolen, silk, flax and chemical fabrics. The nation's total production capacity of textiles has topped the 800 million metre mark.

Many knitwear mills have been built or expanded to boost the production of knitwears such as sweaters, jackets, underwear and hosiery.

The modernly-equipped Pyongyang shoe-making factory with a capacity of 3 million pairs and the Sinuiju shoe-making factory, the Sunchon, Hungnam, Kaesong and Haeju shoe-making factories and other shoe-making bases in all parts of the country are mass producing various smart and high-quality shoes for all seasons and different uses.

The Pyongyang cornstarch factory and the Pyongyang flour-processing combine with a capacity of 100,000 tons each have made their appearance and food processing factories have cropped up in the provinces and local cities to augment the production capacity considerably.

And all kinds of daily necessities are massproduced at large-scale factories and local industrial factories including tv set factories with a capacity of hundreds of thousands of sets and a wrist watch factory.

Some 4,000 local industrial factories built in all parts of the country represent more than a half of the consumer goods output of the country.

The material and technical foundations of the light industry have been further consolidated in recent years in Korea under the policy of the government of the republic which regards it as the supreme principle of the state activities to promote people's wellbeing.

Last year the new Aeguk Color TV Assembly Plant, the Hungnam Towel Factory, the Wonsan and Kowon export garment factories and many other factories went into operation and the injection-moulding boot shop of the Pyongyang vinyl chloride shoe-making factory, the export general shop of the Sinuiju Shoe-Making Factory, the pneumatic spinning shop of the Kaesong Textile Mill have made their appearance and the modernization of the Sakju foodstuff factory and Hwangju Textile Mill have been successfully completed.

This year, the state will increase the investment in the light industry by a wide margin so as to bring about a radical turn in the people's standard of living.

KCNA Reviews 13 Jan Press

SK1301064593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0514 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il- song received a high-level delegation of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps of Iran [IRGC], and news that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the IRGC general commander, and an account of the delegation's sojourn in Korea.

Printed in the press is a message of greetings to President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO executive committee, on the occasion of the new year.

President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il exchanged New Year's cards with foreign heads of state and party leaders, says the press.

Messages of greetings to Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign party leaders on the New Year 1993 are carried in papers.

According to the press, the Central Committee of the new Communist Party of Great Britain and the British Afro-Asian solidarity organization published statements in support of the national reunification policy put forward by President Kim Il-song in his new year address.

Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "On The Fundamental Questions of Revolutionart Party Building" was reported by foreign newspapers, says the press.

Dailies report that the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea received solidarity letters from the secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India and the secretary in charge of the press and culture of the Mexican Committee for Supporting Korea's Peaceful Reunification denouncing the decision of the U.S. and the South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

The Guyana-Korea Friendship Association issued a bulletin on the occasion of the 75th birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-suk, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter, says the press.

Given in papers are accounts of mass rallies held in different parts of the country to greet the 40th anniversary of the victory in the fatherland liberation war with a high degree of political zeal and brilliant achievements in production and construction and of increased production in the mining and metal domains.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article proving the validity of the idea and theory of the Workers' Party of Korea on building the party with main emphasis put on ideology.

Papers inform the readers that the Lao president received the Korean ambassador and Korea and Yemen signed a consular agreement.

A 1992 Asian best athlete cup was awarded to gymnast Pae Kil-su, a people's sportsman of Korea, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article calling for the abolition of the "National Security Law," an evil law against democracy, the nation and reunification, and a report that South Korean intellectuals cmndemned the U.S. nuclear policy on the Korean peninsula.

Papers round up foreign public voices welcoming the release on parole of Yim Su-kyong, the "flower of reunification," and denouncing the decision of the United States and South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

Papers convey words of foreigners and Koreans from overseas regardicg the tower of the chuche idea, a grand monumental edifice.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with a commentary flailing Japan's large plutonium transport, and MINJU CHOSON an article exposing Japan's moves to stockpile plutonium and turn herself into a nuclear power.

The leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran brought to light the moves of the enemies at home and abroad, according to papers.

In an article entitled "Japan Must Lend an Ear to World Voices" NODONG SINMUN says Japan is under fire worldwide in such problems as liquidation of the past, and her moves to become a military power, a nuclear power, and dispatch of troops abroad.

The paper introduces economic construction in Tanzania, Guyana, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Tunisia and Guinea.

12 Jan Press Review

SK1201051193 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0453 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-illustrated report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received secretary general of the Italian Institute of International Relations Giancarlo Elia Valori and a report that the secretary general presented a gift to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Seen in the press are messages of greetings of A. F. M. Mahbubul Huq, chairman of the C.C., the socialist party of Bangladesh, to President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il on the occasion of the new year.

Greeting the new year, New Year cards wishing President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il long life in good health were printed and disseminated by patriotic organizations in South Korea, according to the press.

Papers report that the part dealing with the question of the country's reunification from the new year address of President Kim Il-song was distributed as an official document in the United Nations and that statements or press statements were published in different countries in support of his policy for national reunification.

Immortal classical works of Comrade Kim Chong-il were reported by foreign newspapers, says the press.

Papers give an account of meetings held in factories, enterprises and co-op farms in different parts of the country to vow to greet the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war with high political enthusiasm and brilliant successes in hearty response to the new year address of President Kim Il-song, and report about the production of coal and generating equipment and farming preparations in co-op farms.

According to the press, a central meeting of activists for vowing to carry out with credit the tasks facing the General Association of Korean residents in Japan (Chongnyon) for 1993 in hearty response to President Kim Il-song's new year teachings was held in Tokyo.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is an article about the young communists and anti-Japanese revolutionary

fighters, the first generation of the Korean revolution who held President Kim Il-song in high esteem as the centre of unity and leadership.

The paper runs an article under the headline "Conviction of Victory and Optimism are Revolutionary's Noble Traits".

Papers inform the readers that diplomatic ties were established between Korea and Qatar.

Given in the press are accounts of the arrival of a high-level delegation of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps of Iran in Pyongyang and of a reception given by the Ministry of People's Armed Forces for the delegation.

Papers carry news that Korean paddler Wi Pok-sun won the youth-class women's singles title at the first global youth table tennis championship.

It is reported in the press that the chairman of the North side to the North-South joint nuclear control committee sent a telephone message to his South Korean counterpart proposing to have the 14th meeting.

Carried in NODONG SINMUN are an article headlined "U.S. Reunification" and an account of the struggle of South Korean students for independence, democracy and reunification.

The press rounds up voices of world public praising the socialist constitution of the DPRK as the most popular law.

Included in the world news of the press are reports that the Cameroonian president called for the establishment of a new world order and the Pakistani president appealed for the regional peace.

NODONG SINMUN introduces Qatar which has established diplomatic ties with Korea.

The daily comes out with an article stressing that the bluff of imperialism is an expression of its vulnerability, and MINJU CHOSON an article exposing the land misappropriations and colonial exploitation by the Japanese imperialists in Korea in the past.

Anniversary of Ties With Ukraine Observed

SK0901102293 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1004 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—Papers here today observe the first anniversary of the opening of diplomatic ties between Korea and the Ukraine.

NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article says:

In the past one year since the establishment of diplomatic ties, efforts have been channelled by the two countries into developing the friendly relations on the basis of the principles of equality of sovereignty and mutual benefits and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. In this course, the two peoples have deepened understanding with each other.

The Ukrainian Government and people are energetically endeavoring to attain national unity and the stability of the country and develop economy.

The Ukraine is developing friendly relations with many countries and making active efforts to become a nuclear-free state.

The Korean people believe that the friendly relations between the two countries will develop favourably in the future, too, and wish the Ukrainian government and people success in their efforts for the stability and development of the country.

MINJU CHOSON in a by-lined article states that the Korean people would strive to develop friendship with the Ukrainian people.

South Said To Perpetuate National Division

SK0901230693 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1506 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—The South Korean rulers have left no stone unturned in their manoeuvres to perpetuate the division of the nation, denying the three principles of national reunification agreed upon by the North and the South.

After signing the July 4, 1972, joint statement, the "Yusin" rulers of South Korea described it as "a mere sheet of paper" and laid artificial obstacles to North-South dialogue while advocating "confrontation behind dialogue" and "competition behind dialogue."

They issued a "special statement" in June 1973, declaring the "policy" of permanent division of the nation.

The moves to create "two Koreas" were carried to a more serious extent in the "sixth republic."

In the " July 7 declaration," a rehashed version of the predecessor's formula of permanent division based on a script of U.S. imperialism, the "sixth republic" did not utter a word about the withdrawal of U.S. troops, the chief obstacle to reunification, or about the abrogation of the anti-reunification "national security law."

The South Korean authorities' stance of dependence on outside forces did not change even after the adoption and effectuation of "Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-aggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" and "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

The South Korean authorities, yielding to the reprimand of their American master, declared that the inter-Korean agreement was no more than a sort of "joint statement" or a "gentlemen's agreement" that had no binding on any side. The chief executive claimed that although the agreement had been adopted, it had "little significance."

The South Korean authorities begged for U.S. troops' occupation of South Korea and for protection by U.S.

"nuclear umbrella" and still arrest and punish those who call for independence, democracy and reunification.

They raised a hue and cry over the fictitious "nuclear arms development by the North" and decided with their U.S. master to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers, a test nuclear war, this year.

If the South Korean authorities really had the intention to resolve the question of national reunification, they must take the position of national independence.

People's Spirit of Revolutionary Optimism Noted

SK1201102993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 12 Jan 93

["NODONG SINMUN on Revolutionary Optimism of Korean People"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—The spirit of revolutionary optimism of our people is the conviction that, as there is the singlehearted unity centering around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the cause of chuche which started at the Paektu Forest could be carried to accomplishment and it is their strong will to share the destiny with the party forever, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article. It says: Today our people are working with the conviction of victory and optimism, full of revolutionary passion and mettle, confidently looking forward to the victory of the cause of our style socialism, following the party and the leader, unshaken in any storm of history.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"The revolutionary optimism is an indomitable revolutionary spirit not abandoning the principle under whatever difficult conditions, firmly convinced of the validity of the historic mission and revolutionary cause of the working class and the certainty of victory and a noble ideological sentiment to live and struggle always in optimism, looking forward to a bright future."

The conviction of victory and optimism, revolutionary optimism, is an important ideological and spiritual factor for the revolutionaries walking the road of revolution unswervingly with a high dignity and honor at all times.

It is because they have their leader in the person of the great Comrade Kim Il-song that the Korean revolutionaries of chuche type and people have fought unyieldingly, full of the conviction of victory and optimism in the whole course of revolution unprecedectedly arduous and crowded with ordeals.

Respected Comrade Kim Il-song is the greatest of the great men previously unknown in history in the greatness of ideology and theory, the sagacity of leadership and the nobleness of personality and virtues.

Today the revolutionary optimism of our people is highly displayed in the gigantic struggle to accelerate the final victory of the cause of chuche under the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He is a distinguished great man of our times who is possessed of both literary and military accomplishments, loyalty and filial devotion and a great leader of revolution who leads the cause of independence of the people to a brilliant victory with matchless grit and iron will.

Our people's conviction of victory and optimism is based on the firm conviction that the road along which they are advancing under the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is an ever-victorious road.

The road indicated by our party is immediately a glorious road to fully realize the independence of man under the banner of the chuche idea.

Today our people are closely united in one mind centering around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. The singlehearted unity in which the leader, the party and the masses are firmly linked together as a sociopolitical organism sharing their destiny is a solid unity which cannot be seen everywhere else.

* North Mum on 1992 Harvest, Distribution

932C0055A Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 27 Nov 92 p 23

[Article by reporter An Hui-chang]

[Text] As the harvest grain purchase is at its peak currently in South Korean farm villages, a comparable activity is widespread in the north.

The very activity in point is the "account settlement and income distribution meeting" of each cooperative farm.

The process: An estimated 3,700 odd cooperative farms are subject to going through, every year after their harvest, the yearly labor valuation on the basis of which distribution of the realized cash and crop income for the year is to be formulated.

The North Korean Central Broadcasting Network reported that account settlement and income distribution meetings were held all over the nation following the first such meeting at Chongsan Cooperative Farm of Kangso District in the city of Nampo held on the 7th of this month, a week later than last year. In the same report, the Central Broadcasting Network conveyed that "Chongsan Cooperative Farm had exceeded its production goals in every category recording its achievement of 104.2 percent of the grain, 105 percent of the vegetable produce, and 102.4 percent of the fruit production goals, by a thorough planning based segmentally on farming seasons in order to realize a bumper harvest this year, which was to be "the year of the great farm."

As is observed in that report, North Korea places its emphasis only on the increased production without any mention of per household share of distribution. This has been the trend since 1987 and there has been no mention

of even the minimally expected production figures since 1990, let alone per household shares of distribution. Naturally, the same holds true for this year. We can analyze a few backdrops surrounding this trend. The first one is that the share of distribution decreased due to shorcomings in farm crop conditions. Particularly, looking at the fact that detailed figures concerning the harvest were not made available, despite the fact that President Kim Il-song drew attention by stating publicly in his new year's message this year that "positive measures would be taken in order to realize an epoch-making increase in agricultural production," we determine that there have been shortcomings in production.

The second one is that there is a disparity among distribution shares determined by various cooperative farms. For instance, in 1986, the year for which the figures were made available by North Korea, a variance was observed in per household share of grain distribution between that of Chongsan Cooperative Farm, which was 11.500 tons, and that of Wonro Cooperative Farm, which was merely 7.686 tons.

It is our observation that per household shares are not publicized because this disparity is incompatible to the principles of cooperative farms which set forth "equality."

The procedures through which distribution shares for the members of a cooperative farm are determined are somewhat complicated. First, several expenditures such as production costs including the operating cost of farm equipment and user fees for irrigation facilities would be subtracted from total income of cash and goods. The costs incurred for improvement of next year's production such as purchase of fertilizer, and operating costs of children's nurseries and kindergartens are also included in the expenditures.

The balance of income, after having various expenditures subtracted, would be distributed based on an individual member's "quantity and quality of labor" for the entire year in a given cooperative farm.

The concept of so-called "labor man-days" is utilized for the unit of measurement for a cooperative farm member's value of labor.

Although the exact details of the formula are not known, the concept appears to mean that certain points of measurement are assigned to the kinds of farming days, the farm field conditions, and the weather conditions, and they will be multiplied by each individual member's number of labor input hours.

The shares of distribution having been determined, grains for the entire year's consumption would be distributed in a lump sum according to food supply standard guidelines but the distribution would be controlled in order that there would not be any surplus above the planned production level, through mandatory purchase of such excess grains. At the same time, ratio of distribution between rice and mixed grains at a given cooperative farm is determined based on a separate "mixed grain food supply standard guideline," irrespective of the production ratio of such grains realized in that particular cooperative farm.

The account settlement and income distribution meetings are mostly conducted in a festival atmosphere with added propangda-demagogic activities and the North Korean media have been focusing their reports on a few selected "model farms," which receive the government's concentrated support such as on-the-spot guidances by Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, the aim of the media being to laud the benevolence of the father and son of the Kims.

South Korea

Government Meets, Examines North's JNCC Proposal

SK1201150093 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1400 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Dialogue between the North and the South on resolving the nuclear issue will be resumed soon. The government held a meeting today at the North-South dialogue office in Samchong-tong and decided to accept the North's proposal that both a Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] meeting and JNCC members' contact be held.

Chong Tae-hui, our side's JNCC vice chairman, revealed that our side decided to consider the North side's proposal on holding the JNCC meeting. After agreeing on this, the government decided to make a counterproposal tomorrow on the dates of the JNCC meeting and JNCC members' contact.

In the past the government has viewed the North side's proposals to hold both a JNCC meeting and JNCC members' contact as its intention to abort discussions about nuclear inspection and to delay accepting regulations for nuclear inspection. The government has claimed that if regulations for nuclear inspection are drawn up at the JNCC members' contact, however, the JNCC meeting can be held to accept the regulations.

Proposes Dates

SK1301035493 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0315 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Kong No-myong, our side's chairman of the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC], sent a telephone message to Choe U-chin, the North side's chairman, on 13 January.

In his message, he proposed that three rounds of members' contacts be held starting from 15 January and that after that, a full-dress JNCC meeting be held on 28 January to initial rules for inspection.

Russian Official Says ROK 'Potential Defendant' in KAL Case

SK1301010093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0052 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—Russia didn't give South Korea the tapes from the black boxes of the Korean Air Lines jetliner shot down in 1983 by the Soviets because Moscow regards Seoul as a potential defendant, a Russian newspaper said Tuesday.

The TRUD, in a Paris-datelined story, said that Yuri Petrov, head of the Administration of the President and in charge of the case, told it that Russia hadn't turned over the tapes to Seoul because Seoul was a "potential defendant."

His remarks came after Russia handed over the tapes from KAL 007 to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Paris on Jan. 8, the paper said.

It quoted Petrov as saying that the ICAO's takeover of the tapes could clarify technological aspects of the incident and that every party related to the incident should be questioned.

Meanwhile, the IZVESTIYA quoted a senior Defense Ministry official as denying that the radar over Kamchatka was inoperative at the time of the downing and claiming that it spotted the plane as soon as it entered its range.

He claimed that four Soviet interceptors were sent up to check on the radar sighting and that a U.S. RS-135 spy plane and a Boeing 747 plane were also on the radar screen, but added that the Russians couldn't determine them exactly due to their ineffective and complicated bureaucracy.

Report Predicts Post-Kim Stalinist Regime in DPRK

SK1301063393 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 13 Jan 93 p 6

[Text] A study has stated that North Korea could maintain its Stalinist system because there is no faction among the power elite and a Kim Chong-il ruling system that will emerge when Kim Il-song dies will not collapse immediately. A report by the National Reunification Research Institute (Director Yi Pyong-yong) entitled "A Study of the North Korean Power Elite" states: The former Soviet Union and China each began to undergo change when a dispute emerged among the power elite over policy directions, which means that factions emerged. However, in North Korea, the Kim Il-song - Kim Chong-il unitary control system has been firmly consolidated, and any factor of this sort has been eliminated in the process. Therefore, the possibility is slim that factions may emerge even in a distant future.

The Kim Chong-il ruling system will not collapse right after Kim Il-song dies, because it is difficult for factions to emerge in a short period of time. The following is a summary of this report:

Both China and the former Soviet Union began to undergo the change of their systems when factions emerged and when those factions began to quarrel over policy directions.

As indicated in Mao Zedong's work "On Contradiction," in China a political atmosphere prevails in which dissenting voices are allowed in any organization and in which even minority opinions are honored. Such reformists as Hua Guofeng and Deng Xiaoping survive because such an atmosphere prevails.

In the former Soviet Union, when the conservative Stalin died, the reformist Khrushchev took power, who was followed by the conservative Brezhnev, the reformist Andropov, the conservative Chernenko, and the reformist Gorbachev. In this way, conservatives and reformists took turns in the Soviet Union.

Factions existed among the power elite in China, the former Soviet Union, and other socialist countries. The presence of those factions in those socialist countries was as ordinary as the multiparty system is in capitalist countries.

However, in North Korea, the partisan faction, the Yanan faction, the Soviet Union faction, the South Korean Workers Party faction, the domestic faction, and other region-based factions emerged after the national liberation. However, Kim Il-song purged all the factions, except for the partisan faction, during a period from the national liberation to the "August faction incident" in 1956. He purged members of the partisan faction except for those who were truly loyal to him. He completed the unitary control system by revising the constitution in 1972. Kim Il-song has built a power succession system in advance for his son, Kim chong-il, for the past 20 years in an effort to prevent the occurrence in North Korea of such criticism or challenge against predecessors in office as seen in the former Soviet Union and China. Thus, he has built a firm power foundation for Kim Chong-il power in the fields of the party, the government, and the Army.

The power structure in North Korea has completely rooted out the source of possible factional strife and, thus, achieved thorough integration among power elites. In other words, the families and relatives of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il have dominated main power organs. Old-timers in the power circles play only a symbolic role, and the rights to policy making lie only in the two Kims. The power structure is unified with the party, and top people within the 40th rank of the party hold the main positions in those fields—the party, the government, the Supreme People's Assembly, and the Army. Accordingly, the conflicts stemming from differences in political lines and conflicts between conservative forces and progressive forces are inconceivable at present.

On the other hand, the possible factors causing the creation of factions in North Korea are (1) the death of the supreme leader (Kim Il-song) of the first generation of the revolution, as seen in the former Soviet Union and China in the past; (2) the increase in the number of those specialists and career

bureaucrats who studied or worked overseas; and (3) the increase of complaints by alienated elites.

In particular, if the role of specialists and career bureaucrats increases in the course of settling the present economic difficulties and diplomatic isolation in the futue, it will be difficult to rule out the possibility that the factional strife between the families and relatives of the two Kims and the non- families and non-relatives of the two Kims will emerge.

Foundations under which factions can be formed are being created in North Korea although it is negligible. It seems, however, that factors restricting formation of factions will still be stronger. In other words, the development of competitive factionism or alternative lines like those in China or the former Soviet Union will be difficult in North Korea.

Accordingly, North Korea will seek changes on a gradual basis through a very prudent and defensive policy by its monolithic leadership. Any conflict or discord in North Korean political lines will not come to the surface while Kim Il-song is alive.

When Kim Il-song dies, the political foundation that Kim Chong-il has prepared over a long period of time will not allow any unrest in the North Korean political system due to a mid- or long-term schism of the leadership.

Pak Chan-chong Says Persian Gulf Tension Needs Discussion

SK1301091393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0745 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—Pak Chan-chong, leader of the New Political Reform Party, called Wednesday for the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and National Unification Committee to discuss the intensifying tension in the Persian Gulf. He requested a committee session Wednesday to House Speaker Pak Chun-kyu and Committee Chairman Chong Chae-mun.

The committee ought to discuss oil transportation and the safety of Koreans in the area as another confrontation between Iraq and the United States was looming, Pak said.

Kim Yong-sam To Form Panel on Real-Name Financial System

SK1301022593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0205 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam plans to form an official group to prepare for the so-called real-name system for all financial transactions as soon as he is inaugurated as president Feb. 25, a government source said Wednesday.

Kim was determined to realize the system at any cost as he promised it to the people during his presidential campaign, said the source, who declined to be identified by name.

Kim hopes to form a "pan-governmental group" around the Finance Ministry to study all aspects of the system to minimize the impact its introduction will have on the nation's economy, the source said.

"Timing of the system has not been envisaged, but a period of preparation is expected to take one or two years," he said. "It is possible, therefore, that the system can be instituted between 1994 and 1995."

The administration of President No Tae-u formed a similar group, and undertook preparatory works for one year from April 1989, but in April 1990 it decided to delay the plan indefinitely and disbanded the preparatory group.

The proposed real-name financial system has been controversial since it is expected to upset the country's huge underground economy, which in turn could bring adverse effects on the country's economy.

However, advocates of the real-name system stress the need for a sound financial structure that discourages illegal financial transactions and speculation.

Kim's advisers on financial policies would try to minimize the impact by introducing the system in stages. In the first phase, the administration plans to ban people from depositing their money in the bank under assumed names or moving money around without any names.

In the second stage, the administration would levy taxes on interests on deposits or dividends on equity holdings. It hopes to introduce protective measures before start levying taxes, the source said.

Release of Detainees in DPRK Sought

SK1201010193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0019 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam plans to negotiate with North Korea for the return of some 500 South Koreans being detained there, his aides said Tuesday.

In the first phase, the Kim administration, which will be inaugurated Feb. 25, will seek the release of 278 South Koreans. They include 246 fishermen seized and detained in the North since 1964, 12 crew and passengers of a Korean airlines plane hijacked to the North in 1969 and 20 navymen captured by the North with their vessel in 1970.

The government plans to raise the question either at the inter-Korean prime ministerial conference or a Red Cross society meeting, the aides said.

Kim and the Democratic Liberal Party were reported Monday to be studying the possibility of unconditionally

repatriating Yi In-mo, a self-claimed North Korean war correspondent captured in the South as a guerrilla fighter during the Korean war.

Kim is expected to bring up the human rights issue with North Korea as soon as South-North dialogue is resumed with a specific plan to seek the release of those South Korean captives "who had been ignored somewhat in the past," one of the aides said.

The aide, who declined to be identified, said he expects the inter-Korean prime ministerial conference will resume in the first half of this year, after the joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise Team Spirit ends.

South Korea will formally raise the repatriation question then, he said, adding that more than 500 South Koreans are being held by the North.

In addition to obtaining the release of the South Koreans, Kim will actively work for the reunion of some of the 10 million members of separated families, the aide said.

Prosecution Decides To Summon Chong Chu-yong

SK1201131493 Seoul YONHAP in English 1227 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—The prosecution decided Tuesday to summon Chong Chu-yong, head of the United People's Party [UPP], on the morning of Thursday [14 January] to question him over election law violation charges filed against him.

An Kang-min, first deputy chief prosecutor of the Seoul district prosecutor's office, said, "We sent a subpoena by speed post Tuesday morning and in the afternoon prosecutor Kim Su-min notified the United People's Party of Chong's summon over the phone."

A prosecution source said that the prosecution will question Chong over the charges made against him and that if the charges turn out to be true, he would be prosecuted.

Charges were filed against Chong in connection with his campaign period remarks to the effect that "two close aides of Kim Yong-sam had been to North Korea" and that "he thinks the Communist Party ought to be tolerated."

Chong will also be questioned about his assertions that "Seoul police had an election strategy meeting with Kim Yong-sam's private organization," and that the "Bank of Korea printed 300 billion won for furnishing to the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] as a political fund," the source said.

Other matters he would be questioned about would be his remarks about his furnishing of 5 billion won to Yi Chong-chan of the New Korea Party and if he had received any of the secret funds raised by the Hyundai Heavy Industries Co.

Meanwhile, the United People's Party reacted furiously to the prosecution's decision to summon and question party head Chong Chu-yong.

No Chi-yong, a UPP spokesman, said in an informal comment that it is against the equal application of law that the prosecution plan to summon Chong. "Unless the fair execution of law is guaranteed, we cannot respond to the summons," he said.

The spokesman said that if the prosecution want to question Chong Chu-yong, they should do the same toward President-elect Kim Yong-sam.

UPP floor leader Kim Chong-nam said that the attempt of the prosecution to summon the head of the second major opposition party represents a political persecution of the opposition.

"We would rather prefer forcible carrying away of him to voluntary response to the summons," he said.

A UPP district chapter chairman sued President-elect Kim and DLP Secretary General Kim Yong-ku on libel charges just before the Dec. 18 election.

The majority Democratic Liberal Party said nothing is wrong with the planned prosecution questioning of Chong Chu-yong.

"It is a natural legal procedure for the prosecution to question a person against whom a complaint is filed," said DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae.

He said there is no problem in the equal application of law since he said his party legislators charged with trivial matters are all being investigated as well.

Pak Chi-won, spokesman for the major opposition Democratic Party, denounced the prosecution plan to question Chong as "a signal to embark on a new type of terror politics."

"We call for equal investigation of all those charged with violating election laws and sincerely hope that the planned questioning of Chong won't be a selective investigation desgined to eradicate the opposition," Pak said.

Prevents Departure From ROK

SK1301101593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0902 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—Chong Chu-yong, head of the United People's Party, whom the prosecution plan to question on Thursday over charges of alleged election law violations, tried Wednesday afternoon to leave for Japan but in vain due to intervention by airport authorities. Subsequently Chong was formally banned from leaving the country.

A prosecution source said that Chong first tried to board an Osaka-bound plane leaving Kimhae airport near Pusan at 3:15 PM but missed the plane because he couldn't reach the airport in time.

He then attempted to board a 4:30 PM plane bound for Fukuoka, southern Japan. This time, however, he was kept from boarding by airport immigration officials.

Prosecutor Sim Chae-yun of the Seoul District Prosecutor's Office said, "we were obliged to keep him from leaving the country out of investigative needs since we are set to summon and question him Thursday morning."

If Chong asks for lift of the ban on leaving the country, the prosecution will study the lift if his request is duly justified, he said.

The prosecutor went on to say that the prosecution at first planned to refrain from keeping him from leaving the country in view of his status as an opposition presidential candidate in the past election.

"But, we suspected he was trying to flee abroad to escape the planned prosecution questioning of him as he abruptly sought to leave the country one day before the prosecution summons," Sim said.

UPP Said Heading for 'Further Disarray'

SK1201090093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0747 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—The United People's Party [UPP] appeared heading for further disarray Tuesday after its founder and failed presidential candidate said he would no longer foot the bill for the party, reeling from his crushing defeat.

Chong Chu-yong, leader of the UPP, went back on his promise to provide 200 billion won to prop up the party, saying he had pledged the money only on condition that he won the Dec. 18 presidential election.

The magnate-turned-politician said he thought the party could survive without the 200 billion won he said he would raise by selling his shares in the Hyundai Group, which he founded.

Even before the money problem came up, Chung's No. 2 man, Rep. Kim Tong-kil, had threatened to quit as the party's chairman unless Chong stepped back from "the frontline of politics" and left party affairs to others.

In addition to the intra-party quarrel, the UPP is currently under government investigation on possible abuse of manpower and corporate funds of the Hyundai Group during the election campaign for Chong.

The plight of the UPP sharply contrasts with the confidence and enthusiasm permeating in the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]. Kim Chong-pil, executive chairman of the DLP, has stepped up his party activities in recent days by holding a meeting of three top party officials every other day. Despite there being no pressing business, he convened an enlarged party officials meeting Tuesday morning, according to party sources.

Kim Chong-pil also met with Chong Won-sik, chairman of President-elect Kim Yong-sam's transition committee, and asked him to report on the team's progress to the party as well.

Kim Chong-pil was understood to be making these moves after Kim Yong-sam had asked him to "take care of the party," the sources said.

Kim Yun-hwan, a former DLP secretary general and Kim Yong-sam's right-hand man, left the country for Japan and the United States Saturday after a long one-on-one talk with the president-elect the previous day and closing his private office.

Kim Yun-hwan is scheduled to attend the inauguration of U.S. President Bill Clinton before returning home toward the end of the month. But his trip abroad was designed, many believe, to keep public attention from what job he will land in the new administration.

Elsewhere, the DLP decided Tuesday to form a support group for party members who have been sued by other parties for violation of the presidential election law.

Kim Yong-ku, the party secretary general, who presided over a meeting of senior party officials Tuesday, said the support group would comprise 10 experts on the election law.

Hwang In-song, the party's chief policymaker, said the party would select 30 from the 77 pledges Kim Yong-sam made during the campaign and work out plans to carry them out. The party would report the plans to Kim Yong-sam with this month, he said.

As for the remaining campaign promises, the party will form a policy advisory body and collect the opinions of specialists outside the party, academicians and others before formulating policies, Hwang said.

Executives Admit To Channeling Hyundai Money Into UPP

SK1301101693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0851 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—Executives of the Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. told the prosecution during questioning Wednesday that the firm donated most of the 43.1 billion won (55 million U.S. dollars) so far unaccounted for from a 56.5 billion-won slush fund to the United People's Party [UPP], a prosecution spokesman said.

The executives, company president Choe Su-il and executive director Chang Pyong-su, are charged with diverting 56.5 billion won of corporate money. Of the money, 13.4 billion won was seized by the prosecution in a search of safes at a Hyundai creditor bank on a tip from a Hyundai accountant who exposed her company's massive financial support for the UPP campaign shortly before the presidential election.

The prosecution said it was told by the Hyundai executives that their company had put billions of won in the slush fund in addition to the 56.5 billion won.

Chang reportedly said he had been ordered by Choe to give money to the UPP because Chong Chu-yong, Hyundai Group founder and party head, had difficulty selling his stock.

Based on the testimonies, the prosecution is determined to find out whether Choe and other Hyundai executives were acting on Chong Chu-yong's instructions.

The prosecution will detain Chong for questioning if he refuses to answer a summons.

Meanwhile, Rep. Choe Hyong-u of the Democratic Liberal Party, sued by the UPP for election irregularities, has denied any wrongdoing.

Choe is accused of distributing leaflets and giving gifts to voters before the official electioneering period, and asking them to support candidate Kim Yong-sam.

Korean Products Lose Market Share in U.S., EC

SK1301020993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0127 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—South Korean products lost market share in the United States and the European Community to goods from China, Mexico and Thailand last year, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp.(KOTRA) said Wednesday.

In January-October, Korean products accounted for 3.2 percent of U.S. imports, down 0.3 percentage point from a year earlier.

In the same period, Chinese products hit 4.9 percent, up 1 percentage point, and Mexican goods posted 6.7 percent, up 0.3 percentage point.

Thai goods marked 1.4 percent, up 0.1 percentage point, Malaysian goods hit 1.5 percent, up 0.3 percentage point, and Taiwanese goods sustained 4.7 percent.

In January-June last year, Korean products accounted for 1.5 percent of ec imports, down 0.1 percentage point.

China hit 3.3 percent, up 0.3 percentage point, and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) posted 4.3 percent, up 0.3 percentage point.

Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia marked 3.2 percent, up 0.4 percentage point, Japan hit 10.7 percent, up 0.2 percentage point, and Taiwan sustained 2.2 percent.

Overseas Korean Seeks To Invest in DPRK

SK1201061593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0536 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—A Korean immigrant in Australia is seeking to invest 50 million U.S. dollars in North Korean gold and zinc mines, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) said Tuesday.

Chon Yong-su, head of Koast Corp., was negotiating with a trading company in North Korea to develop gold and zinc mines in Danchon, Suan and six other areas of North Korea in a consortium with Clough Engineering Co., it said.

The consortium was likely to invest 50 million U.S. dollars, KOTRA said.

Chon also runs a Korean merchandise center in Sidney with support from the state-invested KOTRA, a food exporting and importing firm, and a paper-recycling factory.

Cash-strapped North Korea is actively courting foreign capital to exploit its mineral deposits and earn hard currency, a KOTRA official said.

He said Western firms were showing deep interest in mining in North Korea because they are assured of profits.

Nissho-Iwai Co. of Japan has been conducting a geological study in Musan and Cholsan from September last year and is the front-runner among the Western companies, the official said.

Small Businesses Expect First Quarter Decline

SK1201085493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0730 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—With domestic demand depressed by weak facility investment and spending, and little hope for an export upsurge, small- and medium-sized manufacturers will see business decline in January-March from the last quarter of 1992, the Industrial Bank of Korea said Tuesday.

In a survey on business prospects, 18 percent of the 2,756 small- and medium-sized companies predicted a recovery, 54 percent said no change and 28 percent forecast a worse state in the first quarter, placing the business survey index (BSI) at 90.

If the BSI is above 100, the business outlook is better than the previous quarter, bank officials said.

For 1993's second quarter, the BSI was posted at 123 with 37 percent of the pollees forecasting a recovery, 49 percent and 14 percent predicting the same and worse states, respectively.

Gloomy business awaits the small- and medium-sized manufacturers as domestic demand is unlikely to grow because of drastically reduced facility investment in the wake of drops in sales and profitability since the latter half of last year and tight private spending, the bank officials said.

With business in advanced countries taking its time to pick up, economic regionalism and trade protectionism becoming bolder, and other newly industrializing countries posing a greater challenge in the international market, Korean small- and medium-sized traders will have little luck in exports, they said.

All manufacturing sectors will do poorly in the first quarter of the year, except for the paper and printing industries, which expect a sales boost with the new school term.

Facing a seasonal slump ahead, manufacturers of non-metal mineral goods, lumber and furnitures will be especially worst off and the textile, apparel and leather industries will be in dire straits with the soaring inventories due to sluggish sales at home and abroad, the officials said.

With the business expected to pick up between April and June, non-metal mineral, lumber, and furniture industries will enjoy a boost from the release of construction control and seasonal high-demand, they forecast.

Despite cries for stronger financial support and stabilized or lower interest rates, business at the small- and medium-sized companies will continue to be difficult due to the universal recession and its effect of worsened profitability.

Emboldened by the government measures to boost facility investment such as the expansion of foreign currency loans and extension of the temporary tax deduction period for investment funds, facility investment in the first months of the year will remain the same as the previous quarter.

The top adversity of the small- and medium-sized companies was the sluggish home market (51.5 percent), followed by pay hikes (36.9 percent), financial straits (32.5 percent), late payment of bills (27.8 percent), and manpower shortages (26.6 percent).

Burma

SLORC Holds News Conference on Convention

BK1301090593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0848 GMT 13 Jan 93

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Rangoon, Jan 13 (AFP)—Burma's ruling junta has admitted to having a hard time trying to persuade its own people and the world that it is serious in letting the people decide on a new democratic constitution.

"If we expedite it, people will say it is ready-made, and if it takes a long time people will say we are dragging our feet," Information Minister Brigadier General Myo Thant told correspondents here Tuesday.

The "damned-if-we-do, damned-if-we-don't" admission came at a press conference held by the SLORC, the State Law and Order Restoration Council—the junta's official name—which has ruled Burma since the nationwide pro-democracy uprising in 1988.

At the meeting, called after a hasty adjournment of a national convention to lay down the guidelines for a "democratic" constitution, Myo Thant and senior SLORC officials were bombarded with questions as to whether the military would accept a subordinate role if the delegates so decided.

Said Myo Thant: "The Tatmadaw (military) will do whatever is prescribed by the constitution—if it is subordinate, the Tatmadaw will have to abide by the constitution."

"But," added Lieutenant Colonel Ye Htut, a leading SLORC propagandist, "in this country we must always keep uppermost the national interest—and if you go back in history, since the time we started fighting for independence, the Tatmadaw has been the one."

"It is for them (the delegates) to decide, solely," Myo Thant repeated, adding that the six principles SLORC had asked the delegates not to deviate from in their discussions were "objectives."

One of the "objectives" is that the military play a leading role in the future political life of the country, which it has ruled since a 1962 coup. Sixteen pages of the 25-page opening address at the convention were devoted to hammering home the necessity of the military's role.

The "objectives" "are not guidelines," Ye Htut said, adding that the convention would have to come up with those.

Significantly Myo Thant did not try to display Tuesday SLORC's insistence on a future role, chosing instead to point out the word "participate."

"You are ignoring that," he told the journalists. "It does not mean we would have overall supremacy."

Not the words of a man denying that the SLORC is trying to cement the military's role in Burma's future, commented one Asian diplomat here.

The diplomat added however that the SLORC is genuinely convinced that Burma, wracked with insurgency since independence from the British in 1948, cannot survive without them.

"They think they are doing the right thing for the nation. It is a mindset," he said.

Pointing to "the anarchy in Somalia, Yugoslavia and the (former) Soviet Union," Ye Htut said a similar situation could "not be allowed" in Burma where Shan, Karen, Mon and other ethnic rebels are fighting government troops.

"They (the six principles) are not for the benefit of the Tatmadaw, but for the nation," Ye Htut said.

Adding to the SLORC's credibility problem is that though the 699 delegates at the convention come from all regions of the country and 10 political parties many leading political figures, including imprisoned Nobel peace prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, are not present.

Like Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League fro Democracy (NLD), which swept SLORC-organised elections in 1990 but was not allowed to take power many remain under detention or have fled the country.

Questioned at the press conference on the absence of key NLD detainees, the SLORC officials replied that under the country's laws they were ineligible.

Suu Kyi, who has been detained since July 1989, was not an elected MP, they reminded journalists.

And besides, they claimed, she could be "manipulated" by "subversive elements" who could disrupt the framing of a constitution if she were released before a new government was formed.

Why, they asked, did foreign governments focus on one individual rather than the democracy the SLORC was trying to introduce into Burma.

Minister Leaves for Paris To Sign Treaty

BK1201142193 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs, left by air this morning to attend a ceremony to be held in Paris, France, on 13-15 January to sign a treaty banning chemical weapons.

He was seen off at the airport by Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]; Maj. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2 of SLORC; ministers, and responsible personnel.

He was accompanied by U Denzil Abel, deputy director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Daw May Ohn Myint

Lwin, assistant director; and Daw Moe Thuzar, personnel assistant of the minister.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Miyazawa Arrives for Three-day Official Visit

BK1301095093 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0924 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 13 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa arrived here Wednesday for a three-day visit on the second leg of his tour of four ASEAN countries.

The visit is at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi greeted Miyazawa at the international airport here on his arrival by a special aircraft from Jakarta.

Miyazawa leads a 62-member delegation which includes senior officials, mps from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and journalists.

The official welcoming ceremony for Miyazawa will be held at Parliament Square Thursday morning.

Pahang Sultan Comments on Immunity Amendment

BK1201121593 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Pekan, Thursday—The Sultan of Pahang tonight urged the rakyat [people] to ward off "subversive sentiments spread by certain quarters in an attempt to destroy Malay unity."

In an obvious reference to the proposed constitutional amendments to seek the removal of the immunity granted to rulers and press reports on his logging concessions, the sultan asked the rakyat to give him strength and remain patient and united to face current and future challenges.

"Nothing should divide Malay unity in these tense and confusing times. Give me strength to face the current situation which is nothing more than a farce," he said in his 10-minute speech after a tahlil [recitation of prayers for the dead] ceremony to commemorate his late consort, Tengku Ampuan of Pahang, at the Abu Bakar Palace nere.

Also present were Menteri Besar [Chief Minister] Tan Sri Mohamed Khalil Yaakob, his deputy Datuk Abdul Jabbar Ibrahim, state executive councilliors and state assemblymen.

The Sultan paused four times when he delivered his speech, sobbing at each occasion and had to be consoled by his son, the Tengku Mahkota [Crown Prince], and other members of the royal family.

Dressed in a yellow baju Melayu [Malay costumes], the sultan continued to speak after wiping his tears.

The sultan said he loved his people and hoped the feeling was mutual. He also expressed hope that the people would "pray for my longevity."

As soon as the sultan completed his speech, the big crowd, many of whom with Semangat [Spirit] 46 badges shouted "Allahhuakbar" [God is great] four times followed by "Daulat Tuanku" [Long live the king] three times.

In a reference to the proposed constitutional amendments, the crowd also shouted: "Kami akan mempertahankan Sultan sehingga akhir hayat ... tolong jangan sain!" (We will defend the sultan to the end of our lives ... please don't sign!). Police guarded closely all entrances to the palace.

Singapore

Premier Receives Solomon Islands Counterpart

BK1201133293 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The prime minister of the Solomon Islands, Mr. Solomon Mamaloni, called on Mr. Goh Chok Tong at the Istana [Palace] this afternoon. Mr. Mamaloni is on a three-day visit. The Solomon Islands, in the South Pacific, is a member of the Commonwealth.

Leaders Receive Australian Defense Chief

BK1301121593 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The visiting Australian Chief of Defense Forces, General Peter Gration, today called on the Defense Minister, Dr. Yeo Ning Hong at the Ministry of Defense. Gen. Gration is here on a three-day farewell visit as he is leaving the force after six years as Australia's Chief of Defence Forces. He also met Singapore Armed Forces' Chief of Defense Force, Major General Ng Jui Ping. Gen. Gration also called on the prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong at Istana [Palace].

According to Mindef [Ministry of Defense] bilateral relations between Singapore and Australia have developed significantly during Gen. Gration's tenure.

Cambodia

Two UN Staff Killed, UN Policemen Hurt

BK1301020093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0150 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Siem Reap, Cambodia (AFP)—Unidentified attackers fired B-40 rockets and automatic weapons at the houses of U.N. peacekeepers in a night attack near

this central Cambodian city, killing two Cambodian U.N. electoral staff and injuring two U.N. civilian police, U.N. officials here said Wednesday.

A building housing Japanese civilian police serving with the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) burned to the ground. A Ghanian police officer was shot in both hands by an AK-47 and an Indian police officer also sustained "minor" injuries, according to an initial report from the scene. It was not immediately known if any Japanese were injured.

Those killed were two women employed by UNTAC to register voters for elections scheduled for May, an UNTAC spokesman in the capital Phnom Penh confirmed.

"It seems like a direct attack on UNTAC," provincial director Benny Widyono told AFP by telephone.

The attackers fired at the UNTAC civilian police compound, which also housed a group of Indian police, from as close as 20 to 30 meters (yards) away, he said.

Akashi Criticizes Attack on Staff

BK1301084293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0836 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Siem Reap, Cambodia, Jan 13 (AFP)—Unidentified gunmen murdered two U.N. registration staff and injured two U.N. civilian policemen in Cambodia in an overnight attack targetting a U.N. election effort, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

The election team members, two Cambodian women who were killed by the barrage of rockets and automatic weapons as they slept, were the first to die in hostile action against U.N. peacekeepers in this country.

Up to 40 armed men first shelled then raided the village of Ang Kron, 12 kilometers (seven miles) east of here near the Angkor Wat temple complex in northwestern Cambodia, killing the electoral workers and a seven-year-old civilian girl, and injuring the Ghanian and Indian police officers.

A 70-year-old Cambodian man was also shot in the leg, the officials said.

The dead—identified as Ty Sary, 43, and Hang Vicheth, 20—were employed by the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to register voters for elections scheduled for May.

"This murder of unarmed and sleeping civilians is a cowardly and disgraceful act," UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi said in a statement. "If it was intended to disrupt UNTAC's preparations for elections, it will fail."

A building housing Japanese civilian U.N. police officers was blasted with a B-40 rocket-propelled grenade and burned to cinders. The Japanese were on vacation at the time, the officials said.

"It is almost certain that the attack was directed against U.N. elements deployed at that particular location. However, it is unclear what faction should be blamed for the attack," provincial director Benny Widyono said.

Witnesses on the scene told AFP the men split into groups and blasted rocket fire at a Cambodian house in front of which the UNTAC election team was camped in tents.

The armed men asked villagers to produce a woman working for the election team, calling her by name. They also asked for the landlord who rented four houses to the U.N. civilian police officers, the villagers said. Neither of them were in the village at the time, they said.

"The attackers deliberately fired at the tent used by the election registration team," U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said in the capital Phnom Penh.

The raiders then went across the street and destroyed the Japan house—which Akashi visited January 1—targetting the Japanese flag hanging out front.

Moving on to the Indian civilian police house, they apparently wounded Indian constable M.O. Meena, 28, in the head and stole his television and valuables, U.N. investigators on the scene said.

Next door at the Ghanian civilian police house, Sergeant Evans Adema, 38, was barring the door with his hands when he was shot in both wrists.

"One (raider) tried to enter but the door was locked. One of his colleagues said, 'Why don't you go in, shoot the lock,'" said one investigator. "At the same time you have the Ghana policeman who is behind trying to push the door (closed). That's why he was injured."

The raiders apparently did not succeed in entering the house, he said.

The Indian, Ghanian and 70-year-old man are all in stable condition at the U.N. field hospital here, Falt said.

A U.N. Quick Reaction Forces team, designed to handle such emergencies, was dispatched to the scene after the attack began at around 11:15 P.M. Tuesday night, Widyono said.

Akashi's statement called on Cambodian authorities to apprehend the "perpetrators of this foul deed."

"UNTAC will not let the Cambodian people down. We are determined to carry out the Security Council's instructions to hold free and fair elections in April or May," Akashi said.

"They (the dead women) stand for all those Cambodians who are sick of the bloody and futile factional fighting that has bedevilled this country for too long," he said.

Their families would be compensated for their deaths, Falt said.

More than 20 peacekeepers have died while taking part in the U.N. effort, but none of the deaths resulted from hostile action.

A U.N. all-terrain vehicle was also damaged in the attack.

Meanwhile the Khmer Rouge again accused UNTAC on Wednesday of supporting troops from Vietnam and the Phnom Penh government in fighting against the guerrilla group in the northwest of Cambodia.

"UNTAC have connived with the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and have personally carried out activities directly connected to the military operations of the NADK" in Battambang Province, a statement said.

The NADK is an acronym of the official name of the Khmer Rouge army.

"Some UNTAC chiefs in Battambang have come to the battlefields to encourage the puppet 196th and 6th divisions and embolden them to fight," the statement said.

The Khmer Rouge has often accused the U.N. peacekeepers of spying in areas under the guerrillas' control, where fighting with forces of the Phnom Penh government has continued despite the peace efforts.

"UNTAC is wicked," the group said, calling for an end to the peacekeepers' "perfidious manoeuvres" which would lead to the "destruction of the Cambodian nation, people and race."

Last week the Khmer Rouge accused the UNTAC of supplying arms and ammunition to Vietnamese and Phnom Penh troops.

The powerful Marxist guerrilla group has blocked the peace process in Cambodia since June, saying that Vietnamese troops that invaded the country in 1979 to overthrow a Khmer Rouge government are still there.

Vietnam has repeatedly affirmed that it withdrew all its troops by September 1989 and the United Nations has found no evidence of any Vietnamese military presence in Cambodia.

Possible Race, Sex Motives Viewed

BK1301120693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 13 (AFP)—A nighttime attack in northwest Cambodia that left two Khmer women working for the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cambodia dead could possibly have racial and sexual motives, U.N. military sources here said Wednesday.

The women, along with Indian and Ghanian civilian police working with the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) were targetted for attack by unidentified gunmen who raided the village of Ang Kron east of Siem Reap overnight Tuesday.

The gunmen were calling the name of a woman when they raided the village, and opened automatic weapons fire on a tent where they knew two women were sleeping, villagers told AFP.

After launching B-40 rockets at a Japanese civilian police house, they tried to enter the residence of a Ghanian civilian policeman.

A Cambodian woman was hiding under the bed inside the Ghanian civilian police house, the military sources said. One Ghanian officer was shot in the hands.

"The operation could have been aimed at Cambodian women accused of having sexual relations with Africans," said one senior U.N. officer who declined to be identified.

Cambodian men often speak privately about being angry at U.N. personnel who go out with Cambodian women in this conservative, xenophobic society.

The officer said another African peacekeeper was attacked recently in Phnom Penh after going out with a married Cambodian woman. The husband sought out the peacekeeper and shot him in the hands, he said.

Asked about the version of events, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said: "That is a rumor that I will not confirm."

Another U.N. military official said Cambodians were no longer fearful of attacking U.N. peacekeepers.

"If this (motive) is the case, that means we're entering into an uncontrollable period where other attacks of this type await us," he said.

Japanese Team To Investigate

OW1301061793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0603 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh Jan. 13 KYODO—Two Cambodian employees of a United Nations peacekeeping mission were killed and two U.N. peacekeepers wounded Tuesday [12 January] night in a rocket attack on their barracks, the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said Wednesday.

The attack with rockets and automatic weapons on the barracks in Siem Reap Province left two Cambodian staff members of UNTAC dead, while a civilian police officer from India and one from Ghana were wounded.

The raiders burned down the barracks, located in a village 20 kilometers east of the provincial capital of Siem Reap.

Five Japanese police officers stationed in the barracks were all on vacation in Bangkok at the time and were safe, the National Police Agency in Tokyo said.

It is not known who carried out the attack, but since December, Khmer Rouge forces have attacked UNTAC installations in Battambang, western Cambodia, and in Siem Reap in the northwest.

Malaysian and Bangladesh peacekeepers were targeted in those earlier raids.

The Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction, which has refused to disarm in compliance with the 1991 Paris peace accord, is also suspected in Tuesday night's raid, Japanese sources said.

Nine of the 75 civilian police officers from Japan sent to Cambodia are stationed in two locations in Siem Reap Province.

Other Japanese in the area include ceasefire observers from the Self-Defense Forces and U.N. volunteers.

One source close to the barracks, known as "Japan House," said it was "only luck" that the Japanese police officers were not there at the time of the attack.

Japan's peacekeeping headquarters in Phnom Penh indicated that it would dispatch an investigation team to the site of the incident immediately.

Sources at the headquarters said they would coordinate their plans with UNTAC and would likely include a staff member from the Japanese Embassy in the Cambodian capital.

FUNCINPEC Member Reportedly Kills Woman

BK1301025093 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The police station in Stung Treng Province have reported that a woman was killed and two men seriously wounded in a shooting at the provincial town's Block 2, Ward 1 on the morning of 3 January. The killer, Un Vannak, male, born in 1956, and living at Block 2, Ward 1, is a member of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party, membership card No. 205,015. The culprit escaped after the attack. The police are currently in pursuit and investigating the case.

KR 5 Jan Attack on Baray Hospital Reported

BK1301082293 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Some 40 Khmer Rouge [KR] elements attacked the hospital in the township of Baray district, Kompong Thom Province, on 5 January. After raiding the hospital, they robbed the property of the people and materials of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] staff at Chong Dong village in Baray commune of the district. They took away a significant quantity of medicine, a great deal of medical equipment, two [words indistinct], 29 grams of gold, 40,000 riels, three watches, and the belongings of the UNTAC staff.

Liberal Democratic Party Office Attacked

BK1301041893 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] At 1845 on 10 January, there was a blast near the office of the Liberal Democratic Party [LPD] in Srei Santhor district [Kompong Cham Province]. Immediately after that, the district People's Committee ordered the local police and medical staff to investigate the incident. As for UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] police, they arrived at the scene about 10 minutes later.

According to the local people and the victim's wife, at the above time and date, two unidentified men on a Honda [words indistinct] motorbike were going westward from an area bordering on Phteah Kandal and Prek Po communes. They slowed down as they approached the LDP office. The pillion rider then hurled a hand grenade at the hut (?in the precinct) of the LDP office, where Ku Leng and his children were staying. They sped up westward after that. As a result, Ku Leng and his eldest son were seriously wounded, while another son was injured slightly. The district's medical staff gave emergency care to the three victims. Later, Ku Leng and his eldest son were sent to Phnom Penh by an UNTAC boat.

From the incident, the Srei Santhor district's People's Committee has concluded that the act could have been a political assassination attempt that was aimed at putting the blame on the administrative structure in place, or a personal conflict, as the grenade was not hurled directly at the LDP office. The district People's Committee has vehemently denounced the action and stepped up cooperation with UNTAC forces to investigate the incident so as to arrest the culprits.

Nation's 1955-1993 Chronology Analyzed

BK1301125193 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary: "Clearly and Straightforwardly Review the True Nature of Independent, Peaceful, and Neutral Cambodia from 1955 to the beginning of 1993"]

[Text] To clearly understand the Cambodian problems in the past, at present, and in the future, it is necessary to accurately analyze the true nature of independent, peaceful, and neutral Cambodia.

To understand the true nature of independent, peaceful, and neutral Cambodia, it is also necessary to review and emphasize each historic period from 1955 to the end of 1992 and the beginning of 1993, which is as follows:

1. The first historic period is from 1955 to 1970. This is the period of an independent, peaceful, and neutral Cambodia.

2. The second historic period is from 1970 to 1975. A coup d'etat was staged on March 18, 1970 by the United States and Lon Nol, thus finishing off an independent, peaceful, and neutral Cambodia.

3. The third historic period is from 1975 to 1978. This is the period when Cambodia regained its independence, peace, and neutrality.

4. The fourth historic period is from 1978 to 1991. On 25 December 1978, the Yuon [Vietnamese] Hanoi aggressors sent hundreds of thousands of troops to smash, occupy, and annex independent, peaceful, and neutral Cambodia in line with their Indochinese Federation strategy.

5. The fifth historic period is from October 1991 to the end of 1992. On 23 October 1991, the Paris agreement was signed for Cambodia to regain its independence, peace, neutrality, and territorial integrity without the presence of Yuon aggressor forces on Cambodian soil. Therefore, by the end of 1992 and on the eve of 1993, the problem of old and new Yuon nationals occuppying Cambodia still exists. Cambodia is still under occupation and annexation by the Yuon. Cambodia still does not have its independence, peace, and neutrality.

6. The sixth historic period is the beginning of 1993.

At the start of 1993, Cambodia does not enjoy independence, peace, and neutrality. It is a Cambodia which is being invaded and occupied jointly by old and new Yuon aggressors and their allies within and outside UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], has clearly summed up the Cambodian situation at the end of 1992 and beginning of 1993 as follows:

At the end of 1992 how has the situation in Cambodia developed? The situation in my beloved motherland is very bad. Cambodia is heading toward dislocation, and, eventually, the disappearance of a country, state, and nation. Its territorial integrity no longer exists. On the eve of 1993, our Cambodia is losing its soul, losing its independence, peace, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

7. The aim of the struggle of the Cambodian nation, people, and national resistance forces.

The aim of the struggle of the Cambodian nation, people, and national resistance forces and the people of independence- and peace-loving countries worldwide is to enable Cambodia to achieve independence, peace, and neutrality. All of them desire this so that peace and security will prevail in Cambodia, Southeast Asia, and all of Asia, thus contributing to world peace. But since Cambodia is not independent, peaceful, or neutral, who will be held responsible for this problem? History has already inscribed the names of those who are responsible in the black book and sentenced them. The statements dated 13 and 14 December of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, clearly emphasized that those responsible are no one else but the Yuon aggressors who are occupying and annexing Cambodia—the Yuon puppets, and UNTAC.

8. Therefore, the task in 1993 is that the entire Cambodian nation, people, and national resistance forces and peace- and justice-loving people and countries in the world must continue to jointly struggle to implement the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement correctly and thoroughly, thus enabling Cambodia to become genuinely independent, peaceful, and neutral.

In his 14 December statement, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk said: I would like to launch an appeal to all factions, political parties, and all Cambodians, male and female, to wake up, open their eyes, and look clearly at the deadly threat now facing our beloved and adored Cambodia.

The prince made this appeal in order to mobilize the entire Cambodian nation and people to strongly condemn anyone who has allowed foreigners to annex and occupy Cambodian territory and send their people to plunder Cambodia's land and property to the point where the Cambodian race in some parts of the country has already been exterminated.

This is a summary of a Cambodia that at the end of 1992 and the beginning of 1993 has no independence, peace, or neutrality; and HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, has personally and clearly explained to the entire Cambodian nation and people, and the whole world, so that they will understand this situation without any illusions.

The prince also launched an appeal that in 1993, the entire Cambodian nation and people unite, wake up, open their eyes, and strive to resolve this gloomy situation to help our Cambodia regain genuine independence, peace, and neutrality.

Thai Princess' 12 Jan Activities Reported

BK1201141393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 12 jan 93

[Text] After arriving in Phnom Penh on 12 January, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon, daughter of the king of Thailand, visited the Phnom Don Penh High School, the Calmette Hospital, and the school of choreography of the Fine Arts University. She was accompanied by His Excellency [H.E.] Im Chhunlim, member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, minister of education, and member of Cambodia's Supreme National Council; H.E. Sunai Bunyasiriphan, ambassador of the Thai Kingdom to Cambodia; Mr. Mi Samedi, deputy minister of health; Princess Arunreaksmei, daughter of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk; and several other personalities.

Indonesia

KYODO Reports Suharto, Miyazawa Talks

OW1201090293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0826 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Jakarta, Jan. 12 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Indonesian President Suharto agreed Tuesday to cooperate in breaking the stalled peace process in Cambodia and pledged their continued suport for Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the national reconciliation body, the Supreme National Council (SNC).

Indonesia and France cochair an international peace conference for strife-torn Cambodia, where the peace process is in jeopardy due to the Khmer Rouge's refusal to disarm its troops.

In a two-hour meeting at the Merdeka Palace, Miyazawa also pledged that Japan will discuss with other participants in the Group of Seven economic summit meeting how to bring about a dialogue between the G-7 countries and the Non-Aligned Movement, Japanese officials said.

Japan will host the summit meeting of major industrialized nations July 7 to 9 in Tokyo.

Indonesia was host to the 10th summit of the 108-member Non-Aligned Movement in September.

Miyazawa was quoted as telling Suharto that he thinks the expanded foreign ministerial talks of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a valid forum for discussing a new security framework in the Asia-Pacific region.

The two leaders agreed to consult each other closely on security affairs, said the officials traveling with Miyazawa on his eight-day, four-nation ASEAN tour.

Miyazawa arrived in Jakarta Monday. The Japanese prime minister will proceed to Malaysia, Thailand, and Brunei before returning to Tokyo next Monday.

Friendship Important for Security

BK1301082793 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0644 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 13 (ANTARA)—The Indonesian-Japanese friendship should continue to be fostered for regional security and prosperity, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, said Yoga Sugama, chairman of the Indonesian Japanese Alumni Association (Persada), here on Tuesday.

Speaking to newsmen after a 20-minute meeting between visiting Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and a number of Japanese alumni, Sugama said that they were discussing efforts to increase cultural relations between the two countries.

Yoga Sugama who is former chief of the National Intelligence Coordinating Board explained the activities of Persada in the social field to the Japanese prime minister.

He said that the association has established a university (Unsada) with five faculties, five departments and about 1,500 students.

Miyazawa expressed concern and paid special attention to the problems being faced by the University of Darma Persada, said Sugama.

The problems include funds and lack of teaching facilities.

Leaders Discuss Commitment to Peace in Cambodia

BK1301102093 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0857 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 13 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia and Japan are committed to creating peace in war-torn Cambodia and a condusive climate for the upcoming U.N.-supervised elections this year, a Japanese senior official has said.

Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesmen Sadaaki Numata told the press here Tuesday that the commitment was discussed in bilateral talks between President Suharto and visiting Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

In a meeting with President Suharto which lasted more than two hours, Miyazawa said he thought that the results of a meeting between Prince Sihanouk and the head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, were "positive", Numata said.

Sihanouk had vowed to end cooperation with UNTAC and the Phnom Penh Government unless they took tougher measures to control mounting political violence against FUNCINPEC [National United Front for Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] (the opposition faction loyal to the prince) and other opposition parties. He withdrew the threat following a meeting in Beijing last week with Akashi.

The current Phnom Penh regime which was installed with the help of former Vietnamese occupation forces, the radical maoist-inspired Khmer Rouge, FUNCINPEC and another non-communist faction signed a peace agreement in Paris 15 months ago aimed at ending 13 years of conflict in Cambodia.

Under the agreement, UNTAC is to help administer the country and supervise elections scheduled for May.

"Peace efforts in Cambodia are of concern to the Japanese people." Miyazawa wes quoted by numata as saying. The spokesman added that his ctuntry has already sent 700 military personnel to Cambodia under the peace-keeping operations law which was passed in Japan last June after a 20-month battle.

Miyazawa is in Indonesia on the first leg of an eight-day tour of Southeast Asia which will also take him to Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei Darussalam.

Laos

Thai Foreign Minister Begins Visit 13 Jan

BK1301121493 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] On 12 January, Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri stopped over in Nong Khai Province to meet with government officials and businessmen prior to his departure to Laos for an official visit. The foreign minister, during the meeting, spelled out the government's policy and acknowledged problems and accepted suggestions from government officials and businessmen for talks with the Lao side.

On 13 January, the foreign minister and his delegation crossed the Mekong River to Vientiane and were greeted by Lao Deputy Foreign Ministers Souban Salitthilat and Thongloun Sisoulit upon their arrival at Tha Doua ferry landing.

At 1400, Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri held consultative talks with Lao Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut at Lan Xang Hotel before calling on Lao Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon and Lao Deputy Prime Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha at 1700.

On 14 January at 1600, the foreign minister is scheduled to meet with Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the country and Lao National Assembly. The foreign minister will return home at 1700.

Ministry Statement on Chemical Weapons Pact

BK1301030893 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 13 Jan 93

["Statement" by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the signing of the United Nations treaty on the prohibition of the production, stockpiling, use and destruction of chemical weapons—13 January]

[Text] On 13 January in Paris, France, the United Nations with the cooperation of the French Government will hold a ceremony to sign a treaty on the prohibition of production, stockpiling, and the use and destruction of chemical weapons.

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] wholeheartedly welcomes and hails this important event. As a full member of the United Nations, the LPDR always regards the reduction of all types of arms, especially weapons of mass destruction including chemical weapons, as an important development and a fundamental condition for safeguarding and building peace and mutual trust in international relations. The signing of the treaty on the prohibition of production, stockpiling, and the use and destruction of chemical weapons marks a historical effort of the international community, aimed at gradually destroying and eliminating chemical weapons from the world. In this spirit, the LPDR Government officially reaffirms its stand that in the past as well as in the present, we have never had any chemical weapons in our possession nor have we ever used such dangerous arsenal. Due to difficulties in some regulations, the LPDR Government regrets that it is unable to attend the signing ceremony of the treaty in Paris. Nonetheless, we are currently speeding up the resolution of certain regulations so that we are able to become a signatory of the treaty in the future.

Khamtai Siphandon Greets Bulgarian Premier

BK1301110593 Vientiane KPL in English 0859 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Vientiane, January 13 (KPL)—Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon has sent a telegram of congratulations to the newly appointed prime minister of the republic of Bulgaria, extending best wishes for his success in his new post.

The Lao prime minister was convinced that the traditional relatons of friendship between Laos and Bulgaria will be developed in the common interest of their two peoples.

Philippines

NUC Chief: U.S. Amnesty Comment 'Precocious'

HK1301033593 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1240 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] National Unification Commission [NUC] Chief Haydee Yorac said the U.S. comment on amnesty being granted by the Ramos administration to rebels is precocious. Yorac's response came following the United States' warning that the granting of amnesty to the rebels who killed U.S. Colonel James Rowe may affect Philippines-Washington relations. Yorac said the NUC will continue to consult with the various sectors of society to discuss the government's amnesty program. She gave assurances that the discussions' principal consideration will be the interest of the nation.

Insists on Peace Talks in Country

HK1301063293 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 13 Jan 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Fred M. Lobo]

[Excerpts] President Ramos directed the National Unification Commission (NUC) yesterday to push forward with national consultations and formal talks with the various rebel groups in the country as he authorized the release of an additional P6.5 million [Philippine pesos] for the purpose. [passage omitted]

In a meeting yesterday with the NUC at Malacanang, the president called on the NUC to push forward with formal talks with rebel forces.

Yorac [NUC chairman] said that they also agreed on a further review of the procedures of the national recovery and development program for the benefit of rebels and the government.

However Yorac stressed: "Our position is still firm that with respect to the formal talks with the NDF [National Democratic Front] and the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front], the venue should be in the Philippines." [passage omitted]

Editorial Urges Government 'Strategic Planning'

HK1301053293 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 13 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Need for Strategic Planning"]

[Text] President Ramos keynotes this morning the Asia-Pacific Forum's Second International Conference on "ASEAN Internal and External Cooperation in the 1990's and Beyond."

The three-day conference brings together 200 diplomats, government officials, scholars, and representatives from international and nongovernmental organizations. The meeting shall arrive at a policy statement that shall be sent to policymakers in Asia and elsewhere. It shall likely have a great impact on the definition of the problems the region confronts as we turn into the next century.

Among those likely to play definitive roles in this meeting are researchers and scholars from highly respected strategic studies institutes in the ASEAN region, Japan, Korea, and the United States. These institutes peer long into the future and propose policies that will help their respective countries cope with changes and take advantage of new developments on the horizon.

The conference should be an opportunity to underscore the comparative weakness of our strategic studies establishment and the meager attention given to strategic planning. Unless the situation is corrected, we shall find ourselves constantly surprised at every turn by a rapidly changing world.

Several factors explain the weakness of our strategic planning establishment. Through most of the Cold War, Filipino policymakers depended on the U.S. for long-term policy direction. As a consequence, we tended to look at global developments through American lenses, never really defining a distinct set of national interests independent of the global strategic interests of the superpower.

The Cold War and the subsequent consolidation of a dictatorship conspired to overly militarize our notion of strategic planning. Our analysts tended to narrow the scope of our strategic concerns to domestic and regional threat scenarios, leaving out completely equally important strategic areas such as raw materials depletion, patterns of resource dependence especially on critical imports such as oil, commodity price forecasts, energy sufficiency, trends in global trade and investments, market opportunities, and technological gaps.

The Philippine Government has never really attempted to develop institutional infrastructures for coordinated strategic planning. The Central Bank planning unit focuses on monetary trends. The Neda [National Economic Development Authority] has looked into domestic economic projections. The Department of Trade and Industry has only lately begun training our commercial and trade attaches in gathering and processing strategic trade information. The DND [Department of National Defense] has concentrated on domestic disorder. The DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] has a notoriously poor capability for processing information relevant to our diplomatic concern because of its historic reliance on foreign policy cues from Washington.

Theoretically, the National Security Council [NSC] and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency [NICA] should have been the focal points for collating and processing strategic information required for more adept policymaking. The NSC, however, does not have the competent staff required to adequately fulfill its theoretical functions. The NICA, on the other hand, has been caricatured (often justly) as another branch of the secret police concerned with gathering domestic political information.

Former President Ferdinand Marcos set up, during his term, the President's Center for Special Studies. But much of the efforts of this small center was consumed ghostwriting his speeches and books. The Center was scuttled soon after Aquino took power. No equivalent institute processing strategic information for the Office of the President has been set up.

The legislative branch has no strategic studies capability either. The House has a small congressional research staff that is in need of more training and should be less involved with parochial politicking. The Senate, even as it imagines itself an equal partner to the presidency on matters of foreign policy, has no existing research staff.

As a consequence of all this, our policymakers rely on transient experts and ad hoc committees to study problems as they arise. Not surprisingly, our national policies lack the qualities of coherence and farsightedness that are so salient in the national policies of our closest neighbors in the region.

Long-term and comprehensive planning requires a base of sound information processing and a corps of competent analysts capable of integrating insight from a broad range of expertise to guide policy formulation. Unless conscious effort is put towards building up our strategic planning capabilities, we shall continue to stumble on problems that could have been avoided.

Ramos Discussion of Sabah Issue Possible

HK1301063793 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Malacanang has today admitted that the Sabah issue cannot be ruled out for discussion during President Fidel Ramos visit to Malaysia on 27 January.

Presidential Spokesperson Annabelle Abaya said it is impossible for President Ramos and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed not to talk on the two countries' problems, including the Sabah issue.

Earlier, Malaysian newspapers reported that President Ramos will go to that country for the final resolution of the Sabah problem. However, Abaya said that although the Sabah issue will be discussed, the chances for an immediate resolution is bleak.

It will be recalled that some senators have urged President Ramos not to discuss the Sabah issue with the Malaysian leaders because the country is allegedly not yet ready to resolve this.

Abaya said the president will not make any commitment on the Sabah issue.

Ramos, Daewoo Head Agree on Economic Cooperation

SK0901061593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0503 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Manila, Jan. 9 (YONHAP)—Kim U-chung, chairman of the Daewoo group, agreed with Philippine President Fidel Ramos in Manila on Friday to strengthen economic cooperation between Daewoo and the Philippines.

Ramos suggested that Daewoo participate in a project to convert the Subic Bay Naval Base into a free port.

Kim expressed interest in setting up a joint-venture factory in Subic Bay and said he would return in February for further discussion.

Ramos proposed that Daewoo build power stations and communications facilities in the Philippines, and Kim gave a positive reply.

Envoy Hopes To Trade Bananas for Russian Arms

HK1101070993 Quezon City MALAYA in English 11 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Ambassador Romualdo Ong has proposed to President Ramos a barter agreement with Russia: Philippine bananas for military hardware and ammunition. A Malacanang press release said Ong, who will head the embassy in Moscow, made the proposal during a farewell call on the President last Saturday, but did not say why Russia would be interested in swapping tanks for cavendish.

With Ong in Malacanang were Ambassadors Narcisa Escaler (United Nations), Reynaldo Arcilla (Austria), Jose Fernandez (Greece), Willy Gaa (Libya), and Francisco Santos (Vietnam). Ramos told the new ambassadors to always be on the look-out for new markets for Philippine products and new technologies which the country can adopt.

The military has been looking for other suppliers of arms and military hardware after the US placed pincers on its arms supplies to the defense department following the rejection of the US bases treaty in 1991.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0822 GMT on 11 January carries a similar report, which adds the following: "Ambassador Romualdo Ong said one of his priorities when he takes his post in Moscow next month is to forge a counter-trade agreement which would allow swaps of products that each needed. He said Russian diplomats had told him that there was a large demand for bananas and coconut oil in that country, adding that they were also looking into garments and footwear as well.

["Ong said that, while he was not limiting Russian imports to arms, he admitted that this was one key Russian product that the Philippines needs. 'It is no secret what the Philippine military needs and what we can source...from Russia,' Ong said, citing recent Russian offers to sell jets and naval equipment to the Philippines."]

Human Rights Commission Surveys Violations

HK1101112793 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 9 Jan 93 p 10

[Text] Bacolod City—New People's Army [NPA] guerillas topped the list of human rights violators in Western Visayas in 1992, a yearender of the Commission on Human Rights [CHR] here showed. The NPAs accounted for 82 violations last year, followed by policemen with 30 cases. Army men were subjects of 19 complaints, while paramilitary troopers recorded 19 cases. Four cases last year also involved government officials, two religious fanatics and seven by unidentified perpetrators.

CHR Region 6 noted that the increase in alleged CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]/NPA violations can be attributed to the fact that the filing of cases is mainly done to avail of the CHR financial assistance program. Also, it added, some of the cases happened back in the 1980s but were filed with the CHR only in 1992.

The CHR in Western Visayas was able to provide P320,000 [Philippine pesos] in financial assistance to victims of human rights violations or their families, the yearender reported. The most notable achievement of the CHR-Bacolod sub-office was the filing of charges against the suspect in the killing of Fr. Narciso Pico, a militant Aglipayan priest.

But the accused, a rebel returnee known as Ka [Comrade] Roxanne, was killed by communist rebels before

the case could reach the court. CHR-Bacolod also conducted three fact-finding missions on the alleged mass graves for victims of CPP/NPA atrocities in Calatrava and the alleged bombing in Camanis, Kabankalan.

Army Reports Gains Against Rebels in Luzon

HK1101142593 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 11 Jan 93 p 15

[Text] Camp Weene Martillana, Pili, Camarines Sur—The Six New People's Army (NPA) guerrilla fronts in the Bicol Region, Quezon province and other parts of Southern Luzon now have only 531 armed regulars, the 2nd Infantry Division of the Philippine Army (PA) reported.

Compared to the 1618 armed rebels recorded last year, the number represented a drop of 65 percent. At present, only 201 barangays remain "affected and targeted" by rebels, compared to 533 in 1992.

Army Brig. Gen. Regino Lacson, commanding general of the 2nd Infantry division which operates in the three rebel-infested zones, identified the still active NPA guerrilla fronts as the Luzon-Mayon/Polilio Real-Infanta-Nakar (LM-PRIN), Albay-Sorsogon (Alsog), and R3 (Sorsogon).

Lacson, disclosing intelligence reports consolidated by the division's psychological operations unit (2POU) under Maj. Raul Esmeralda, said that the six guerrilla fronts controlled the 533 barangays in the three areas as of January 1992.

Continued campaigns by special operation teams (SOT), deaths of NPA leaders and regulars in encounters with the military, the capture and surrender of other rebel officers and members after President Ramos issued the general amnesty program for the insurgents, the acceptance by the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines] and NDF [National Democratic Front] of the offer for peace negotiations, and the downfall of communism in the defunct Union of Soviet Socialist Republics diminished the rebel ranks and practically grounded to a standstill the NPA's recruitment program in Quezon, Bicol and Southern Luzon, Lacson said.

Three brigades under the Army's 2nd infantry division undertook more than 12,000 offensive patrol and combat operations against the rebels, while the SOTs cleared 322 NPA-affected barangays through sustained, year-long operations, Lacson said.

Thailand

Burma Accuses Logging Firms of Smuggling

BK1301121393 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 13 Jan 93 p 6

[Text] A source at the National Security Council [NSC] reported that the government has received a message from the Burmese Government that several logging companies are involved in weapons and drug smuggling along the Thai-Burmese border. Burma wants the Thai Government to solve the problem before allowing Thai firms to engage in businesses in Burma in 1993. The source said the NSC has informed private companies with logging concessions in Burma about the matter. The Burmese Government made it clear that, unless Thailand could solve the problem, Burma would withdraw logging concessions instead of allowing the illegal activities to continue, which is detrimental to the image of both countries.

NSC Deputy Secretary General Khachatphai Burutphat has ordered the director of the Forest Industry Organization, which also has logging concessions in Burma, to hold a meeting with the private sector on 15 January to solve the problem. A clear guideline and regulations on the logging business will be formulated and submitted to the NSC. It will be forwarded to the prime minister for use in judging whether the Thai private sector should be encouraged to work in Burma.

According to the source, the NSC has been aware of illegal activities, conducted by certain logging companies, which are affecting international security, but did not have enough evidence to arrest them. The activities included smuggling weapons, narcotics, and illegal immigrants along the border. From now on, the NSC will make it a rule that all logging concessions with any countries concluded by Thai private companies must be approved by the Thai Government. The NSC also reserves the right not to approve any concession if it is found to be detrimental to international security, or if it creates problems. The NSC is closely watching activities of certain companies which are damaging to the country.

"At the meeting, the Forest Industry Organization and the private companies must come up with clear-cut regulations for logging to be approved later by the Burmese Government. Thailand must do everything possible to win the trust of Burma. We do not want Burma to adopt a negative attitude towards us," the source said.

Winai Saprungruang, deputy director of the Forest Industry Organization said that Burma will cancel all logging concessions granted to the private sector by the end of 1993. This is because of the abuse of the contract by the private sector, especially by Thai companies, which often carries out logging outside the concession areas. Burma realizes that Thai companies are taking advantage of it; therefore, it wants to cancel all concessions by year end in order to stop what is going on. The companies which violated the contract will be blacklisted and will not be allowed to work in Burma. Those not blacklisted can apply with government agencies for logging concessions. Logging firms will no longer be allowed to seek concessions directly with Burma, as in the past.

Spokesman on ACM Kaset's Political Future

BK1201021393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] If ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, the Armed Forces' inspector general, chooses to enter politics by running in the next general election it should be considered as a good sign for Thai democracy, Government spokesman Aphisit Wetchchachiwa said yesterday.

Mr Aphisit said if ACM Kaset really decides to contest the next poll it would mean that he was prepared to enter politics the democratic way because it was the only way accepted by the people.

"It is good if a person like ACM Kaset who used to have a big role in politics decided to run in the election," he said.

ACM Kaset became a powerful figure in politics after the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) overthrew the civilian administration of Gen Chatchai Chunhawan in February, 1991.

At that time ACM Kaset was commander-in-chief of the Royal Thai Air Force.

ACM Kaset's political role faded after he was charged with involvement in the bloody crackdown of pro-democracy protesters in May 1992 and was later transferred to an inactive post as a military inspector general.

There have been recent reports that ACM Kaset plans to form a political party supported by the 0143 Group whose members are mainly Class 5 graduates from Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy.

ACM Kaset told reporters over the weekend that after his retirement in September that he might contest the next general election.

But he did not make clear whether he would set up his own party or join an existing one.

Mr Aphisit said only time would tell if the people would accept ACM Kaset in the political arena.

Asked whether he thought ACM Kaset's entry into politics was meant to "ask for the return of something", the Government Spokesman said reporters should ask ACM Kaset about his real intentions.

"Ask him whether he wants to 'push for something' or to 'prove himself' or not."

Mr Aphisit stressed that ACM Kaset must have an answer for the public about his role during the May 17-20 crackdown.

On the question of the poll system losing credibility if ACM Kaset won a seat in the general election Mr Aphisit said the results of the poll must be accepted and the public's decision respected.

He cited the case where Col Narong Kittikachon was elected despite his alleged involvement in the killing of pro-democracy demonstrators in the October 14, 1973 student uprising.

"There were no problems when Col Narong ran in the election," he said.

In the case of ACM Kaset Mr Aphisit said no comments shouid be made in advance as the next poll is yet to be scheduled.

He has already aired his view in political seminars that anyone who enters politics through the democratic system should be accepted as their action would demonstrate their acceptance of that system, the Government spokesman said.

"It's better to come through the system than to make movements to destroy it," Mr Aphisit said.

The Government spokesman also said it was not possible to use bases other than public support when asked whether ACM Kaset's decision to play politics might cause concern for other political parties because he may still have influenee in the military.

"Under the democratic system no one can use power other than public acceptance or the general election would not be sacred," Mr Aphisit said.

He said he believed that if ACM Kaset announced he would contest the next poll, it should mean that the senior military officer was ready to fight under the democratic system and would not use any bases to support him.

However, Mr Aphisit said the Government must oversee that candidates do not use influence in the election, a problem which is as important as vote-buying.

Mr Aphisit added that it would be good for the future of Thai politics if competition became stronger in the wake of the setting up of more political parties by retired government officials.

Asked whether the current political role of former Phalang Tham Party leader Chamlong Srimuang would affect the Government, Mr Aphisit said the Magsaysay Award winner always says that he supports the work of the Government and of the PDP ministers even though he has not joined the Cabinet.

Mr Aphisit said every party has the right to initiate political activities although other parties' ideas may not be as colourful as the proposed setting up of a Political Leadership School.

Paper Expresses 'Disgust'

BK1201050593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Jan 93 p A6

[Editorial: "Does Kaset think we are blind to the crimes in May?"]

[Text] We can only express our disgust on learning that former military supreme commander Kaset Rotchanan on Sunday confirmed his intention to enter politics, despite his direct involvement in the May massacre.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset, now an inspector general in the Armed Forces after a recent reshuffle, said in Saraburi that he hoped to stand eventually for election in that constituency, but had not decided whether to join an existing political party or set up a new one. Kaset is due to retire from the military at the end of September. There are strong rumours circulating in Bangkok that Kaset and other military leader involved in the May bloodbath would lead a new political party to be formed by Sqd Ldr [Squadron Leader] Thiti Nakhonthap.

Paradoxes of democracy

One of the great paradoxes of democracy is that any crook or corrupt politician is free to form a political party or join any one in a bid to participate in a government that should be of the people, by the people and for the people. The final determination of course is made by the people themselves in the form of a free choice during elections.

When it comes to Kaset however, we have to recall the not-so-distant past to serve the present, because so many Thais sacrificed themselves on the streets of Ratchadamnoen last May so that we could have a democratic government free from the domination of the military.

Kaset in his capacity as director of the National Peacekeeping Force ordered in May the use of lethal force to break up the biggest street protest since 1973. Operation Phairi Phinat (Operation Enemy Utterly Destroyed) went into effect the night of May 17 to put down by any means the 100,000-odd pro-democracy demonstrators who were protesting against the government of Suchinda Khraprayun.

When Kaset and Suchinda staged the Feb 23, 1991 coup, their primary concern was to pre-empt what they feared was a sweeping transfer order by then premier Chatchai Chunhawan, who was at odds with supreme commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong. Kaset and Suchinda further intervened in domestic politics by manipulating the constitution-drafting process. Finally, they managed to command the support of five parties—dubbed "devils" by the pro-democracy forces—to form a pro-military majority coalition to place Suchinda in the premiership in April.

Last July, before the September elections, Kaset with complete disdain for parliamentary democracy suggested the military would consider staging another coup if election results put "lousy political parties" into power and triggered further political unrest. He insisted the military would uphold its responsibility for maintaining peace and order in the face of a "threat to national security".

The May pro-democracy demonstrations were not some kind of gross deviation from decent standards of public expression, as detractors have claimed. The most recent paranoid statement was made by Suphan Buri Governor Somphong Sriyaphan who said over the weekend that those who criticized the armed forces were elements of the communist movement.

To the contrary, the May protests were the dramatic outcome of profound and irreconcilable differences. There was a strong sense of public outrage in which an educated and informed spectrum of opinion could no longer tolerate either brutal despotism or a corrupt administrative machinery of men in green, blue and khaki, neither of which respects the concept of power derived from the will of the majority.

We are not a passive majority blind to the crimes committed by the military commanders when they devised, ordered and implemented Operation Phairi Phinat against unarmed demonstrators—despite the fact that these commanders have been pardoned by a general amnesty granted by the Suchinda regime to all involved in the May bloodbath. For the sake of the innocent that were slain in Ratchdamnoen Avenue and the surrounding areas between May 17-19 braving batons and bullets, we have to express our indignation, anger and revulsion over any moves by the generals to form a new political party or for Kaset to enter politics to "strike back" at our hard-earned democracy.

Generals should fade away

The only way we can ensure that the generals fade away, without harbouring any intentions to return as prime minister "to save the common people from quarrelsome, corrupt and incompetent politicians" is by fixing the present iniquities in our political system. The government of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has to be on guard to prevent the official mechanisms for representing us—elections, political parties and parliament—from becoming a set of ceremonial institutions going through empty rituals in a "pseudo-democracy". Procrastination now on the part of the government will do great harm to our nation.

We showed remarkable resilience to rebuild our lost confidence and regain hope after a period of turmoil during the May bloodbath. It is now Premier Chuan's responsibility to make sure that those who died in the Ratchdamnoen shootings did not do so in vain.

Navy Commander Asks for Base in Andaman Sea

BK0901044493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 9 Jan 93 p A3

[Text] Navy Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Wichet Karunyawanit said yesterday that he has discussed the establishment of a regional naval base in the Andaman Sea with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai.

Wichet said the Royal Thai Navy also plans to buy additional frigates to be stationed there to protect Thai fishermen from pirates. He said last November that the

Navy was being restructured to have three regional command centres, two of which will be based in the Gulf of Thailand and the other one in the Andaman Sea.

He also said yesterday that the area around the Andaman Sea was now under the jurisdiction of the Phang Nga Naval Station, although the Navy plans to set up a regional base in Krabi province where it has already conducted a survey.

"I have already discussed this with the prime minister," Wichet stressed.

"The prime minister has always understood the need (to set up the base). We've always gotten what we've asked for."

Also in November, the Chuan Cabinet approved the Navy's acquisition of six Sea King helicopters worth Bt [baht] 3.6 billion whose purchase was included in a five-year budget plan.

Wichet said the approval was granted, especially since the Navy has commissioned the construction of helicopter camer in Basan, Spain.

PM's Office Minister Sawit Bhothiwihok has also expressed his support for the setting up of the Andaman base and the overall increased role of the Navy in protecting the country's economic interests.

The Navy chief emphasized that the vigilance of the naval forces had led to a decrease in attacks against Thai fishermen by pirates in the Gulf of Thailand. This was complemented by the deployment of four frigates there.

The frigates were purchased from China and were delivered to the Navy between 1991-1992. They were officially commissioned last Dec 26.

"Since the deployment of the frigates, we have not heard anything more about pirate attacks in the gulf," Wichet said.

Vietnam

U.S. Academics Arrive for Cooperation Seminar

BK1301080193 Hanoi VNA in English 0643 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 13 - A group of American academics participated in Hanoi on Monday on the [word indistinct] of 'Development for post-embargo Vietnam, Economical Cooperation'.

The visitors, who arrived in Hanoi the same day, are from Baldwin-Wallace College, University of California-Berkeley, UFS [expansion unknown] and Harvard Universities and the University of Maryland.

During the seminar, which was organised by the BUSINESS VIETNAM and TIA SANG magazine, participants tried to find out how much Vietnam was prepared for the post-embargo period, what was to be expected in future cooperation between the United States and Vietnam, and what Vietnam had learned after five years of cooperation with foreign countries and what improvements to make it [word indistinct] conditions.

Besides the seminar the American professors will pay a courtesy visit to the Vietnam-US Friendship Association in Hanoi and give lectures at the Economic College and the Economics Institute in HCM [Ho Chi Minh] City.

Premier Issues Instructions Against Smuggling

BK1101085993 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] During the past period, law enforcement agencies noted an alarming increase in goods smuggling carried out by sea vessels. Smugglers have taken advantage of loopholes or made contracts with bad officials in responsible agencies to carry out their operations. These vessels have illegally brought into our country various kinds of prohibited goods and other items disguised as gifts. Vietnamese mass media agencies have extensively reported on this issue.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet in his various meetings with law enforcement agencies at the central level since October 1992 has urged responsible agencies to pay special attention to monitoring seabound smuggling, especially by small vessels from the provinces. As a result, many cases of seabound smuggling have been detected, especially those carried out by vessels belonging to the Seprodex Corporation of the Ministry of Maritime Products. Some of these cases have been tried by the courts.

In early October, acting on the Central Market Management Committee's report on seabound smuggling being carried out by the vessel Bong Sen Trang, the prime minister promptly instructed the Binh Dinh People's Committee and the provincial customs office to confiscate all the smuggled goods and investigate people on board the vessel. In November the Prime Minister also instructed the State Inspection Commission and the Central Market Management Committee to investigate smuggling carried out by the vessel Van Duong of Quang Ninh Province. In December the prime minister ordered responsible agencies to investigate the smuggling case involving the vessel Vinh of Nghe An Province and to report the results to him.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, on 23 December 1992 at a conference with leading cadres of law enforcement agencies at the central level to discuss measures against serious corruption and smuggling cases, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet urged these cadres to monitor seabound smuggling and to deal seriously with cases with sufficient evidence. He urged that efforts be made to promptly deal with these cases in accordance with the law, including owners of the goods, their accomplices, skippers of vessels, and directors of companies involved. Action must be taken to seize vessels carrying illegal goods, especially those belonging to the private sector. The licenses of vessels belonging to the state economic establishments will be confiscated and their crews discharged. These vessels will be allowed to operate again

after an extensive investigation by the authorities concerned. Vessels repeatedly involved in goods smuggling will be transferred to other establishments. Agencies that support the smugglers, persons who receive illegal goods in the form of gifts, and enterprises that deal with goods smuggling will be seriously dealt with.

The Prime Minister's Office also reported that Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has asked the minister of maritime products to conduct an investigation into vessels belonging to the Seprodex Corporation that have been involved in smuggling and to deal seriously with responsible personnel in accordance with the power of the minister. The prime minister also asked the minister of maritime products to file a report on the management of his departments, in accordance with the law on government organization recently adopted by the National Assembly.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet also sent a message to chairmen of people's committees in localities that have sea vessels, urging them to monitor and check activities of the vessels under their jurisdiction, especially business activities of these vessels. Recently, Binh Dinh and Khanh Hoa Provinces have taken improper actions against a number of vessels carrying smuggled goods. These provinces must review their tasks to take drastic action against these vessels in accordance with the law.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet commended various mass media agencies, especially the LAO DONG and NHAN DAN newspapers for reporting seabound smuggling in localities. Most recently, NHAN DAN carried an article on seabound smuggling carried out by vessels belonging to the Seprodex Corporation. The prime minister urged other newspapers and radio stations to continue to contribute their efforts to opposing smuggling.

The prime minister urged mass organizations and people's strata in localities to inform law enforcement agencies of all information and activities they detect that are related to smuggling being carried out by various organizations or cadres at whatever positions so that drastic action will be taken against the smugglers in accordance with the law.

Prime Minister Receives Libyan Guests

BK1201145093 Hanoi VNA in English 1413 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 12—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet this afternoon cordially received Mr. Miftah Muhammad Ku'aybah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Aquatic Products and other Libyan experts who are here to make inquiries into the possibilities of cooperation in the fields of aquatic production and construction in Vietnam.

Mr. Miftah Muhammad Ku'aybah, who is also head of the sub-committee of the Libya-Vietnam Inter-Governmental Commission on Economic and Commercial Cooperation, informed the prime minister of his delegation working sessions with the Vietnamese Ministry of Aquatic Products which resulted in the documents to be signed under which Libya will invite 350 Vietnamese experts to help Libya develop its aquatic production.

He said that his delegation's visit to Vietnam this time will usher in a new stage for the Libyan-Vietnamese cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit not only in aquatic production but in many other fields as well.

The Libyan official also highly valued the Vietnamese people's self-reliant efforts in economic construction and wished them still greater successes.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet hailed the Libyan guests' visit as a fine sign of the friendly and reliable relations between the two countries in the new period. He also assured his guests that Vietnam will be ready to meet Libya's requirements in aquatic production and will do its utmost to consolidate and strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Finance Minister Arrives in Singapore 10 Jan

BK1201102493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] On 10 January, Vietnam's Finance Minister Ho Te arrived in Singapore to begin a six-day visit at the invitation of Singapore's Finance Minister Richard Hu. Minister Ho Te will have working meetings with Singapore's finance minister and other government officials.

Doan Khue Attends Defense Inspection Conference

BK0901152393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 8 Jan 93

[From the 8 January press review]

[Text] According to the paper NHAN DAN, from 5 to 7 January the army inspectorate general held a conference of cadres in the entire sector to review inspection work in 1992 and to seek a profound understanding of the guidelines and duties for national defense inspection work in 1993 and the regulations for organizing and performing national defense inspection work.

General Doan Khue, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of national defense, attended the conference.

In 1993, the national defense inspection sector must continue seeking a profound understanding of the resolution of the Seventh Party Congress, the resolutions of the Party Central Committee and its Military Commission, and military tasks. It must also seek a profound understanding of and satisfactorily implement the organizational and operational regulations of national defense inspection work and step up investigation activities in the struggle against corruption and smuggling, while making itself firm and strong so as to be capable of satisfactorily fulfilling its assignments.

Ties Established With Guatemala

BK0901140293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Yesterday in New York, United States, Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang, head of our permanent delegation to the UN, and ambassador (Julo Armando Martini Guarera), head of permanent delegation of the Republic of Guatemala to the UN, signed a joint statement establishing diplomatic ties between Vietnam and Guatemala at the ambassadorial level.

The statement notes that with the common aspiration for strengthening and developing friendship and cooperative relations between the two countries, the Governments of the SRV and the Republic of Guatemala decided to establish diplomatic ties between the two countries at the ambassadorial level on 7 January 1993.

Northern Port Under Construction, Development

BK1001065893 Hanoi VNA in English 0534 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 10—The construction of Cai Lan harbour is under way in Ha Long bay, northeast of the Bai Chay tourist site in the northeastern coastal province of Quang Ninh. On the marine map Cai Lan is located at 20 degrees 47' latitude north and 107 degrees 84' longtitude east. When completed, Cai Lan will become a national port and may replace Haiphong which is currently the largest harbour in north Vietnam.

Cai Lan port was first established by the French who named it Coubert port. The French described it as the only deep-water port in north Vietnam. A Vietnamese businessman, Bach Thai Buoi, then used Cai Lan as a harbour for coal export in the late thirties.

In 1980, a project on the construction of Cai Lan harbour was submitted to the government by the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Subsequent surveys and calculations took nearly 7 years to complete. Construction officially began in 1987. Cai Lan will have 7 wharves, 2 of which for 10,000-tonne ships, 4 for 15,000-tonne ships and a deep-water wharf for 30,000-tonne ships. Total length of the wharres is 2,000 metres.

Phase 1 (1991-1994) will cost an estimated 87.52 billion Vietnamese dong (exchange rate in Nov. 1992: 10,800 VND [Vietnamese dong] to one US dollar). The cost in the next phase is being calculated. In the next ten years or so the goods freight going through the harbours in northeast Vietnam is expected to increase by from 6 to 10 million tonnes a year. Since Haiphong port which has been over the past century the only sea port in north Vietnam is handicapped by quick silting (it is now hardly accessible to ship of more than 5,000 tonnes), Cai Lan is gaining an ever more important position in terms of foreign trade.

In fact, Cai Lan has excellent geographical conditions to become a major international port. It is surrounded on all sides by mountains with only one gateway to the sea which makes the port well sheltered against wind and storm. The main 17-nautical-mile lane from buoy 'zero' has an averago depth of 6.8. According to surveys conducted over the past 18 years (from 1968-1985) this depth has not changed noticeably. The depth inside the port is 9 meters, the highest tide level is 4.3 meters and the lowest 0.32 meters. A 200- 300 meter long ship can easily turn round inside the port. The immediate inland area of 600,000 square miles can be further expanded.

With its favourable natural conditions, Quang Ninh is attracting more and more foreign and domestic businessmen. Hotels and other tourist service establishments are mushrooming in anticipation of economic and tourist development.

Increased Demand for Electronic Goods Expected

BK1001150893 Hanoi VNA in English 1401 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 10—In 1993, the demand for electronic goods, motorcycles and bicycles will increase sharply, according to a recent survey. Market analysts said every 100 families will need 90 bicycles and 8 motorcycles. There are now 600,000 motorcycles and some 2 million bicycles in Ho Chi Minh City population 4 million and 400,000 motorcycles and 2 million bicycles in Hanoi. According to economists, the number of motorcycles in both cities will double in 1995. Every 100 families had 7.6 television sets in 1989, 10 sets in 1992 and about 15 sets in 1995. The figures in urban areas are 11.5, 13.6, and 17.4 compared to 3, 4.8, and 7.6 in the rural areas. Every 100 families had 10 radio-cassette players in 1989, 15 in 1992 and are expected to own 22 in 1995. The number of fridges was 5.5 for every 100 families in 1990 and will rise to 8 in 1995.

Journal Warns About 'Peaceful Evolution'

BK1301013193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Colonel Tran Ba Khoa's article: "Heighten Vigilance Against Peaceful Evolution Schemes of the Hostile Forces," published in January issue of TAP CHI CONG SAN Journal]

[Text] Peaceful evolution is, in fact, part and parcel of the global offensive strategy of imperialism. It stemmed from the imperialist logical concept of political and military intervention into other countries to materialize their schemes to rule the world under various pretexts. The imperialists claim that their schemes are aimed at guaranteeing international diplomatic activities, ensuring the proper claim of sovereignty; and opposing acts against human rights, democracy, and international security and so forth.

It can be said that the imperialists will never change these schemes and strategic objectives. Indeed, since the emergence of Marxism and the coming into being of the former Soviet Union, the unswerving objective of the imperialists is

to eliminate socialism. This is simply because the existence and development of socialism will create effects which are detrimental to the vitality of capitalism.

Since World War II, the United State has launched a global strategy to obstruct communism. This strategy led the United States to the comprehensive confrontation with the former Soviet Union and other socialist countries. However, the peaceful evolution schemes carried out under the containment strategy during the 1947-88 period were carried out in a defensive fashion. In the late seventies, the military power gap between the Soviet Union and the United States was not narrowed as expected. In fact, Western countries have attained obvious superiority in the economic, scientific, and industrial domains as well as in the standard of living and labor productivity. Under the Reagan administration, the United States restored its economy and made significant progress in the economic and military domains while regaining its prestige abroad after a period of slackening due to the consequences of the Vietnam War.

Against the development of the international situation in favor of imperialism, the Reagan administration launched a crusade to fanatically oppose socialism and the former Soviet Union. Afterward, the Bush administation resorted to the beyond containment strategy. This new strategy contended that peaceful evolution is its core objective formed by the results of the 40-year implementation of the containment strategy and the economic and military superiority of the United States and other Western countries. This strategy is aimed at capitalizing on mistakes made by restructuring in the Soviet Union, promoting joint nonmilitary measures to assimilate the Soviet Union into the international community, and causing impact on or collapse of socialist states (President Bush's statements on 12 May 1989 and 27 May 1992).

At this juncture, peaceful evolution has developed into a nucleus of the U.S. global strategy doctrine which is aimed at establishing a new world order symbolizing pure capitalism under the U.S. total control. On the one hand, the U.S. wants to seize the opportunity to eliminate the remaining socialist states by resorting to nonmilitary measures which is in essence the peaceful evolution. On the other hand, the U.S. has formulated long-term plans to prevent other superpowers such as Germany and Japan from catching up with its role as the only superpower in the world.

The U.S. Republican Party's political platform in August 1992 wrote: Relying on the Reagan's legacy, now we see opportunities to wipe out communism.

Following are the peaceful evolution schemes which have been carried out in various different forms and stages:

—To carry out sabotage activities in the political and ideological domains. The objectives of this measure are to eliminate the revolutionary and scientific nature of Marxism-Leninism, to reject the ideological concept of the communist party, to degenerate communists to create an opposition force within the party and state, to encourage political pluralism and the multiparty system, and to promote total economic privatization. The imperialists have resorted to democratic, human rights, national, and religious activities to infiltrate and to undermine socialism with an aim to shift to bourgeoisie democracy. They have spared no efforts in using their modern mass media facilities to spread the ill-intentioned psychological warfare allegations to worsen the negative phenomena in our politico-socioeconomic domains to sow indignation among our people. They have persuaded and incited the younger generation to oppose the older generation and new officials against the old ones. They have also attempted to reject the glorious history of the revolution, smeared and discredited the so-called fabulous or legendary top leader of our party and nation while striving to vociferously admire achievements of capitalism. They have used various tactics and integrated facilities to conduct both covertly and overtly infiltrations into our internal affairs to mix up rights and wrongs, enemies and friends; and to make contact between people at home and abroad in order to create an integrated pressure to incite separation and opposition to undermine us from within.

—To carry out sabotage activities in the economic domain. While applying the encirclement and embargo policies against us, they have siphoned their surplus goods into our markets to damage our production establishments and to replace home-manufactured merchandise. On the other hand, taking advantage of their economic and political strength, they vowed to grant aid or investment, sponsored cultural exchange visits, promoted tour groups, and so forth. They even used money and goods to bribe our cadres in the form of gifts, thereby degenerating our cadres and party members and persuading them to admire capitalism while criticizing socialism.

Other hostile forces have also taken advantage of our open-door policy to lead our economy to the path of capitalism and total privatization. This is another fact that some of us have not realized or have tried to ignore due to the temptation of the green dollars.

—To carry out sabotage activities by means of underground operation, infiltration, conspiracy, and armed attacks. These kinds of activities have been carried out by Vietnamese reactionaries in exile. Some of them have sneaked into Vietnam to secretly influence bad, dissident, and degenerate elements as well as innocent people to persuade them to carry out sabotage activities against us.

—To undermine us through diplomatic activities and military deterrence. This kind of sabotage stemmed from various directions especially from western imperialist countries as well as from some other nations that have clashed interests with us. Our traditional

enemies normally create conditions to justify their operation by accusing us of violating human rights or democracy before taking actions. They even used the UN, regional, and nongovernmental organizations to exert pressure on us in order to materialize their political aims.

In summing up, peaceful evolution schemes are not carried out against us in a single front. While trying to create rebellion within our country, the imperialist will impose encirclement and embargo against us or even launch military intervention or territorial encroachment when opportunities permit. Their schemes are to force us to cope with many fronts at a certain time. They will try to worsen the socioeconomic crisis to turn it into a political crisis to create rebellion and a desire to overthrown the system in our country.

For Vietnam, we realize that imperialism has formulated plans and prepared secret forces to stage a comeback when opportunity permits. The imperialists have also coordinated with reactionary forces in the three Indochinese countries to carry out a multifaceted war of sabotage. As a result, the current peaceful evolution schemes are but inevitable acts to continue to carry out their post-war plans. These schemes are in conformity with the nature and objectives of imperialism. This reality will be soon clearly seen by parties concerned and the Vietnamese people at large.

The most effective measures to cope with the reactionary forces' schemes and tactics are to consistently heighten our vigilance, actively take cautious action, strengthen national defense, and launch strong counterattacks. To fulfill these tasks, on the one hand we must formulate plans to restore and to develop the socioeconomic situation, to maintain political stability, and to purify our party and political system while revamping and renovating our party as stipulated in the party Central Committee Third Plenum's resolution. On the other hand, we must satisfactorily carry out tasks in the national defense, security, and foreign affairs domains. These are key measures to strengthen unity in our country while opposing reactionary forces from the outside. Internal unity and strength are decisive factors to block infiltration from the outsiders. The internal strength should combine the political and economic strength; the strong points of the daily, cultural, and social life; and the people's intelligence. Only by maintaining our internal strength will we be able to repulse the peaceful evolution and foil other schemes of the reactionary forces.

For the Vietnamese people, the struggle against peaceful evolution cannot be separated from the struggle to defend, apply, and creatively develop Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought. We must strive to maintain the socialist path and to oppose opportunism, rightism, and rigid dogmatism. We must try to restore the laboring people's confidence in socialism and in the party leadership. We must motivate patriotism, uphold the spirit of national independence and self-reliance, develop the quintessence of our national culture, and repulse the infiltration of reactionary ideology and decadent culture.

While the reactionary forces resort to peaceful evolution schemes to fanatically undermine us, we must strive to consistently maintain the class struggle and creatively apply the Marxist theory in the new historical stage in order to understand, to realize, and to expose the true nature and hostile objectives of peaceful evolution being carried out by various reactionary forces including the imperialists.

The struggle against peaceful evolution must be carried out in parallel with the triumphant implementation of our party's political platform. With ample experiences in defeating the aggressive enemies in the past, our party will surely be able to lead our people and Armed Forces to consistently advance along the chosen path and to foil all peaceful evolution schemes and tactics of all hostile forces.